



This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

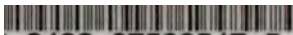
Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

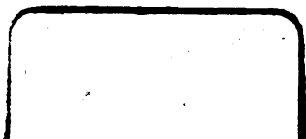
- + *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- + *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
- + *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
- + *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at <http://books.google.com/>

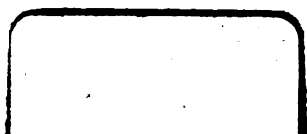


3433 07590547 5

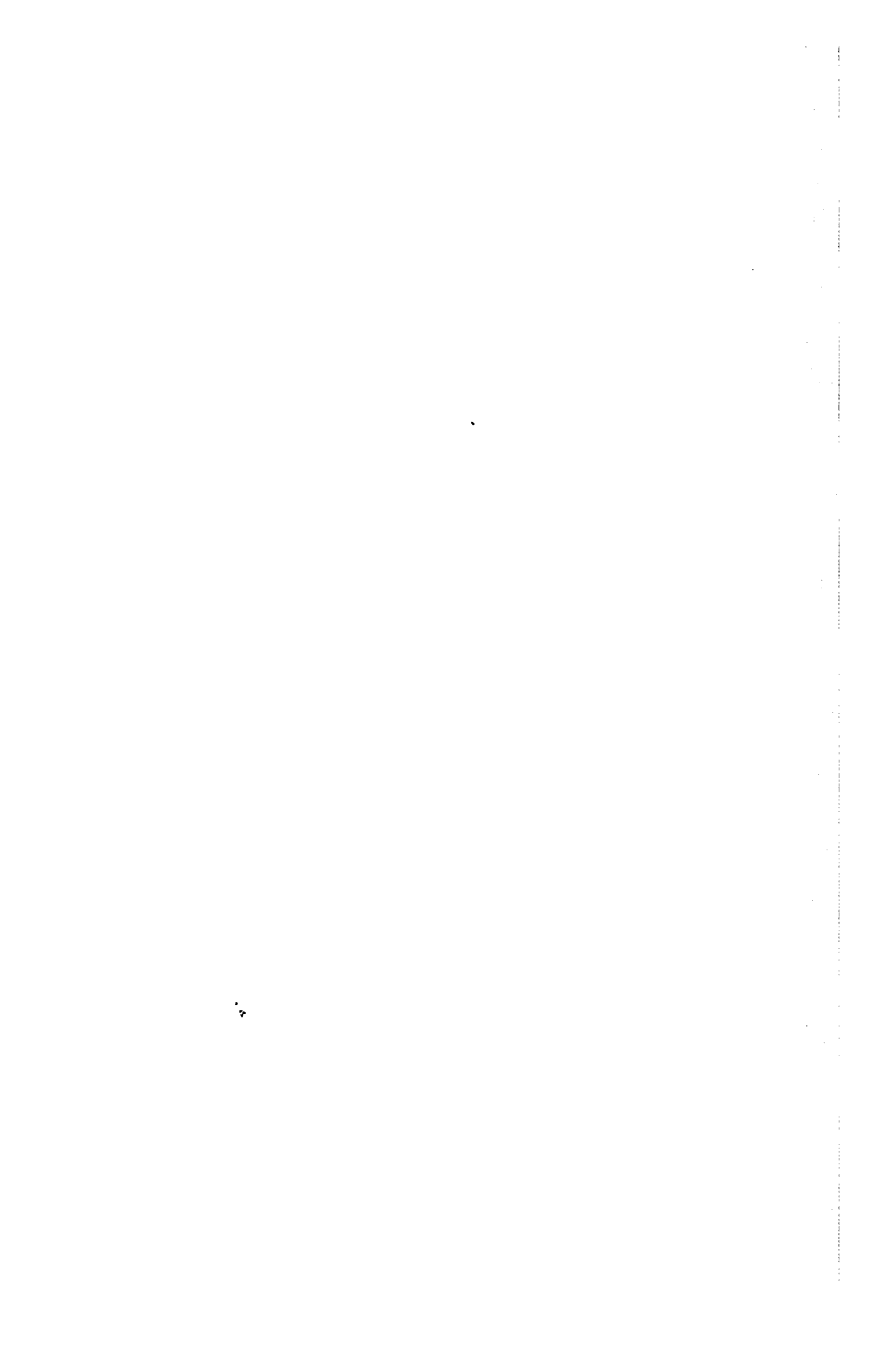


Vertical text or markings along the right edge of the page, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side.

Handwritten scribbles and marks at the bottom right of the page, including a large loop and several dots.



100







CONVERSATIONS ON ENGLAND

AS IT WAS AND IS.

King
~~115~~
C

LONDON
PRINTED BY SPOTTISWOODE AND CO.
NEW-STREET SQUARE.

CONVERSATIONS ON ENGLAND

AS IT WAS AND IS.

DESIGNED FOR

SCHOOLS AND HOME TUITION.

BY

MRS. KEMP

AUTHOR OF "RACHEL COHEN."

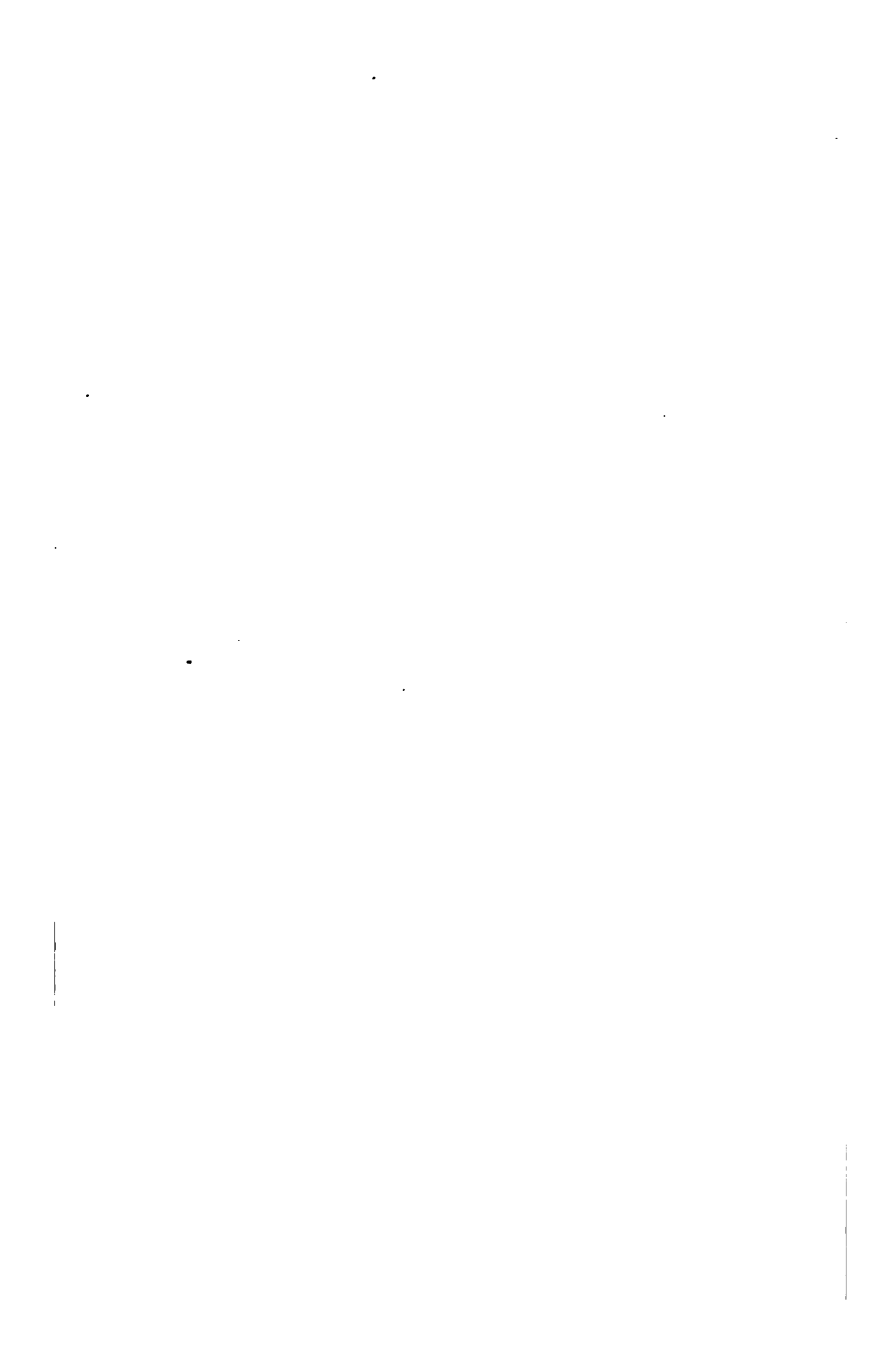


LONDON

LONGMAN, BROWN, GREEN, LONGMANS, & ROBERTS.

1858

34



P R E F A C E .

IN the days of Elizabeth, when the public affairs of England were directed by that great and good statesman Cecil, Lord Burleigh, it is related that on the occasion of any individual applying for permission to travel in foreign parts, the judicious Premier would first cause him to be examined as to his knowledge of England, and "if he found him ignorant, would bid him stay at home and know his own country first." A wise decision, in the opinion of the author of this volume which, after much laborious investigation and painstaking research, is now presented to the public, and especially submitted to the candid consideration of those engaged in tuition. That there is no lack of geographical scholastic works of standard merit in the present day the writer is fully aware; but embracing, as they chiefly do, a description of all the different countries of the earth, the account of each must necessarily be meagre, and the information rather general than circumstantial and detailed. To remedy this deficiency, so far as regards our own beloved land, has been the author's aim in the present work, and she trusts that the young student will find in its pages information as new to him as it is interesting and important. In her plan of associating historical events with the particular places

in which they were enacted, a continuous chain of history is obviously precluded; but she feels that such a mode of instruction needs no apology, sanctioned as it has been by the usage of Dr. Arnold and other teachers of acknowledged excellence. It is scarcely necessary to add that the "Conversations" are not intended to impart an adequate knowledge of English history, but yet it is hoped they may prove serviceable in that department of literature by impressing upon the minds of the young, by the powerful aid of association, the facts they have derived from other sources. In her search for materials the writer has not only consulted the most reliable authorities, but has been engaged in an extensive correspondence with persons resident in all parts of England; she therefore trusts that the topographical information will be found strictly correct.

In conclusion it only remains for her to express her heartfelt obligations to those kind correspondents who (though she was personally unknown to them) so promptly and courteously replied to her inquiries, and whose valuable communications so materially assisted her in the execution of her work. Without permission she does not feel at liberty to publish names, but she may be permitted to state that she is largely indebted to the clergy and their wives and daughters for local intelligence; and that some of the leading firms of England have not only supplied her with information relative to their manufactures, but have kindly given her notices the benefit of their revision.

FAIRFORD,
Nov. 2, 1858.

CONTENTS.

INTRODUCTION Page 1

CONVERSATION I

NORTHUMBERLAND.

SUBJECTS :—Introduction.—Situation of Northumberland.—Early Inhabitants.— Invasion by Romans.— Picts' Wall.— Kingdom under Saxons.— Origin of Name.— Invasion by Danes.— Size, general Features, and Productions.— Newcastle a Roman Station.— Name during Possession by Saxons.— Origin of Name, Newcastle.— Remains of ancient Castle.— Historical Recollections.— Improvement in Appearance of Town.— Richard Grainger, and other celebrated Men.— Coal Mines.— First Introduction of Coal to London.— Produce of Coal from the Collieries of Northumberland and Durham in 1856.— Probable Duration of Northern Coal Field.— Dangers to which Colliers are exposed.— Sir Humphry Davy's Safety Lamp.— Iron, Lead, and Silver Produce.— Tynemouth.— Ancient Priory.— North Shields.— Industrial Pursuits.— Hexham.— Margaret of Anjou.— Wars of the Roses.— England as it was and is.— Glass first used in England.— Civilisation now and then.— Hexham Abbey.— Monks, the Masons, and Architects of olden Time.— Berwick-upon-Tweed.— Countess of Buchan.— William Wallace.— Flodden Field.— Salmon Fishery.— Alnwick.— Border Wars.— Alnwick Castle.— Ruins of ancient Castles.— Warkworth Hermitage.— Legend 14

CONVERSATION II.

CUMBERLAND.

SUBJECTS :—Boundaries.— Size.— Early Inhabitants.— Derivation of Name.— Lakes.— Poet Southey.— Borrowdale.— Mine of Plumbago.— Mineral Produce.— Lakes.— Mountains.— Waterfalls.— Rivers.— Carlisle: its great

Antiquity. — William Camden. — Carlisle Castle. — Cathedral. — First Consecration of Burial-Grounds. — Manufactures. — Whitehaven. — Coal and Iron Mines. — Manifestation of Divine Wisdom and Benevolence. — Egremont Castle. — Ancient Legend. — Cockermouth. — Workington. — Mary Queen of Scots. — Imprisonment by Queen Elizabeth. — Political Motives. — Penrith. — Druidical Remains. — Fortified Towers in Churches. — Present Condition of England Page 32

CONVERSATION III

WESTMORELAND.

SUBJECTS: — Derivation of Name. — Boundaries. — Size. — Ancient Inhabitants. — Conquest by Romans. — Natural Features. — Mineral Produce. — Lakes. — Rivers. — Appleby. — Historical Recollections. — Charles the First. — Kendal: Derivation of Name. — Kendal Weavers. — Woollen Manufacture. — England as it was. — Historical Recollections. — Heversham. — Bishop Watson. — Early Struggles. — Celebrated Works. — Ambleside and other Towns. — Kentmere. — Bernard Gilpin. — Persecution of Protestants. — Ancient Castles. — Secret Chambers 46

CONVERSATION IV.

DURHAM.

SUBJECTS: — Origin of Counties Palatine. — St. Cuthbert. — Invocation of Saints. — Scripture only safe Guide. — Boundaries of County. — Detached Portions united to Northumberland. — Holy Island. — See of Durham. — Farne Islands. — Grace Darling. — Ancient Inhabitants. — Size. — Natural Features. — Mineral Productions. — City of Durham. — Historical Reminiscences. — Arbitrary Norman Law. — Cathedral. — Castle. — Rivers. — Sunderland. — Vast Increase in Importance. — Manufactures. — Extraordinary Coal-pit. — Venerable Bede. — General Havelock: Early Disposition. — Original Destination. — Exchange of Profession. — Afghan Wars. — Indian Successes. — Relief of Lucknow. — Death. — Religious Character. — South Shields. — Gateshead. — Darlington, and other Towns 57

CONVERSATION V.

YORKSHIRE.

SUBJECTS: — Boundaries. — Ancient Inhabitants. — Conquest by Romans. — Size. — Signification of Ridings and other ancient Divisions. — Most important District. — Natural Features. — Rivers. — Mineral Productions. —

City of York. — Residence of Roman Emperors. — Establishment of Christianity in Roman Empire. — York destroyed by William the Conqueror. — Massacre of Jews, and other Historical Reminiscences. — Battle of Marston Moor. — York Minster. — Manufactures. — Leeds. — Bradford. — Halifax. — Ancient Law of great Severity. — Huddersfield. — Wakefield. — Sheffield: for what celebrated in ancient and modern Times. — Hull. — Whitby. — Doncaster. — Scarborough. — Harrogate. — Ruins of Fountains Abbey. — Dropping Well. — Pontefract Castle. — Historical Recollections. — Captain Cook: Humble Origin. — Early Predilection for the Sea. — Remarkable Discoveries. — Promotion. — Death Page 78

CONVERSATION VI.

LANCASHIRE.

SUBJECTS: — Lancashire a rainy County. — Lancashire as it was and is. — “Lancashire Witches.” — Introduction of Potatoes. — Boundaries of County. — District of Furness. — Coniston Fell. — Mineral Productions. — Early Inhabitants. — Rivers. — Lancaster. — John of Gaunt. — County Palatine. — Castle. — Queen Victoria’s Visit. — County Jail. — Lancaster a Roman Station. — Liverpool. — Derivation of Name. — Exports and Imports. — Mrs. Hemans. — Stage Coach Travelling. — Railways. — Manchester a Roman Station. — Cotton Manufactures. — Introduction of Woollen Manufactures. — Sir Richard Arkwright. — First Cotton Mill. — “Cotton Lords.” — Density of Population. — Manchester Exhibition. — Ribchester. — Duke of Bridgewater’s Canal. — Celebrated Watering Places. — Lakes. — Furness Abbey. — Dissolution of Monasteries. — Monastic Houses now in England. — Religious Toleration 104

CONVERSATION VII.

CHESHIRE.

SUBJECTS: — Boundaries. — Size. — Ancient Inhabitants. — Palatinate of Chester. — Natural Features. — Mineral Productions. — Duckinfield Coal-Pit. — City of Chester. — Chester “Rows.” — Chester a Roman Station. — Invasion of Danes. — Alfred the Great. — Ethelfleda. — Siege of Chester. — Amazonian Females. — Ancient Castle. — Norman Nobles. — Curious Anecdote. — Cathedral. — City Walls. — Rivers of County. — Salt Towns. — Important Cheese District. — Great Marston Salt Mine. — Ball held there. — Method of procuring Salt. — Salt an inestimable Treasure. — Extract from the Pen of Mungo Park. — Singular Appearance of Northwich. — Brine Springs. — Quantity of Salt produced in the County. — Stockport. — Macclesfield. — Increase of Manufactures. — Birkenhead and other rising Towns 127

CONVERSATION VIII

DERBYSHIRE.

SUBJECTS: — Boundaries. — Size. — Early Inhabitants. — Natural Features. — High Peak. — Peveril Castle. — Mineral Produce. — Peak Caverns. — Derbyshire Marble, &c. — Derby. — Signification of Name. — Invasion of Danes. — Historical Reminiscences. — Introduction of Silk Works. — Old Lombe Mill — John Flamsteed. — Matlock. — High Tor. — Buxton. — Warm Springs known to Romans. — Principal Rivers. — Belper and other Towns. — Sir Richard Arkwright. — Butterley and Codnor Park Iron Works. — Some Account of Iron Manufacture. — Quantity of Iron annually raised and manufactured in the County. — Ancient Sports. — Chatsworth. — Crystal Palace. — Sir Joseph Paxton Page 145

CONVERSATION IX.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

SUBJECTS: — Boundaries. — Size. — Early Inhabitants. — Industrial Resources. — South Staffordshire by Night. — Vast Mineral Resources. — Annual Produce. — Wolverhampton. — Walsall. — Principal River. — Canals. — Stafford. — Invasion of Danes. — Historical Recollections. — Manufactures. — Izaak Walton. — Potteries. — Pottery Art practised by Romans. — Use of Salt in glazing Earthenware discovered. — Knowledge of Pottery Art acquired by a revolting Expedient. — Honourable Career of Josiah Wedgewood. — Materials required in the Art of Pottery. — City of Lichfield. — Cathedral. — Dr. Samuel Johnson. — Early Struggles. — Greatest Work. — Religious Hope. — Newcastle-under-Lyne. — Burton-upon-Trent. — Tutbury Castle. — Mary Queen of Scots. — Discovery of ancient Coins 165

CONVERSATION X.

WARWICKSHIRE.

SUBJECTS: — Boundaries. — Size. — Mineral Produce. — Early Inhabitants. — Roman Roads. — Warwick. — Warwick Castle. — Guy Earl of Warwick. — Guy's Cliff. — Piers Gaveston. — Rivers of County. — Birmingham. — Antiquity of Iron Works. — Modern Manufactures. — Historical Recollections. — Edge Hill. — Vast Population. — Dearth of Literature in last Century. — City of Coventry. — Derivation of Name, Coventry. — Destruction of

City Walls. — Coventry formerly celebrated for Shows and Pageants. — Royal Visitors entertained in Olden Time. — Captivity of Queen of Scots — Ancient Inns. — Ancient architectural Remains. — Stratford-upon-Avon. — William Shakspeare. — Shakspeare's House. — Leamington. — Rugby. — Kenilworth Castle. — Entertainment to Queen Elizabeth. — Representation of Mysteries. — Impiety of such Representations. — Moral Position of England still below her Privileges. — Call for earnest Prayer . . . Page 183

CONVERSATION XI.

WORCESTERSHIRE.

SUBJECTS: — Boundaries. — Size. — Early Inhabitants. — Principal Hills. — Rivers. — City of Worcester. — Its Antiquity. — Destruction by Danes. — Other Vicissitudes. — Battle of Worcester. — Charles the Second. — Cathedral. — Porcelain Manufacture. — Royal Porcelain Works. — Elegant Productions. — Ingredients used, and Method of Manufacture. — Manufacture of Gloves. — A Glove an ancient Symbol. — Dudley. — Nail-making. — Ruins of ancient Castle. — Picturesque Dell and Limestone Caverns. — Stourbridge. — Manufacture of Fire-bricks. — Kidderminster. — Manufactures. — Mrs. Sherwood. — Warren Hastings. — Malvern. — Droitwich. — Annual Produce of Brine Springs. — Redditch. — Needle Manufacture. — By whom introduced. — Evesham. — Historical Recollections. — Origin of British Parliaments. — Glorious Constitution of the British Empire 197

CONVERSATION XII.

SHROPSHIRE.

SUBJECTS: — Boundaries. — Size. — Ancient Inhabitants. — Natural Features. — Principal Mountains. — Rivers. — Mineral Produce. — Colebrook Dale. — First Iron Bridge in England. — Shrewsbury. — Derivation of Name. — Ebbelfleda. — Ancient prevalence of Mints in England. — Historical Recollections of Shrewsbury. — Norman Rapacity. — Lords Marchers. — Origin of Numerous Castles. — Manufactures of Shrewsbury. — Bridgenorth. — Leaning Tower of Castle. — Trade of Town. — Ludlow Castle. — Historical Associations. — Glove Trade. — Oswestry. — Whittington Castle. — Tale of Chivalry and Knighthood. — Sketch of a Tournament. — Ruins of Abbeys. — Boscobel House. — Wanderings of Charles the Second. — Destinies of his Family. — Earthenware and China Works. — Richard Baxter. — Imprisonment for Conscience' Sake. — Celebrated Works 213

CONVERSATION XIII.

HEREFORDSHIRE.

SUBJECTS :— Boundaries.— Size.— Character of County.— Beauty of the River Wye.— Other Rivers of Herefordshire.— Ancient Inhabitants.— Noble Resistance to Romans.— Caractacus.— Incursions of Welsh.— Hereford.— Derivation of Name.— Treachery of Offa, King of Mercia.— Canonization.— Intercession of Saints.— Only One Mediator.— Historical Reminiscences of Hereford.— Present State of Town.— Herefordshire Cattle.— Leominster.— Historical Recollections.— Ross.— John Kyrle.— Wilton Castle.— Thomas Guy.— Romantic Scenery.— Goodrich Castle.— Civil Wars.— Loyalty of Rev. Thomas Swift.— Insincerity of Charles the First.— Feudal System.— Foundation of English Liberty.— Goodrich Court . . . Page 229

CONVERSATION XIV.

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

SUBJECTS :— Monmouthshire formerly a Welsh County.— Boundaries.— Size.— Detached Portion.— Natural Features and Resources.— Ancient British Tribe.— Conquest by Romans.— Principal Rivers.— Number of Castles.— Monmouth formerly a Roman Station.— Monmouth Caps.— Henry of Monmouth.— Ancient Castle.— Picturesque Scenery.— Tintern Abbey.— Cistercian Monks.— Erroneous Notions regarding Acceptance with God.— Wyndcliff.— Moss Cottage.— Chepstow Castle.— Siege during Civil Wars.— Harry Marten.— Town of Chepstow.— Newport.— Iron Works of County.— Pontypool.— Abergavenny.— Vale of Usk.— Ancient Castle.— Historical Recollections.— Chief industrial Resource.— Raglan Castle, Place of Refuge for Charles the First.— Loyalty of Marquis of Worcester.— Caerleon, a magnificent Roman City.— Remains of ancient Greatness.— Antiquity of Caerwent.— Reflections on the evanescent Nature of sublunary things 246

CONVERSATION XV.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

SUBJECTS :— Ancient Inhabitants.— Conquest by Romans.— Boundaries.— Size.— Natural Features.— Forest of Dean.— Mineral Produce.— Manufactured Productions of County.— City of Gloucester.— Its great Antiquity.— Oc-

capancy by Romans.—Roman Antiquities.—Samian Pottery.—Historical Reminiscences of City.—Present Aspect of City.—Cathedral.—Monuments.—Foundation of Sabbath Schools.—Ancient Desecration of Sabbath.—Pin Manufacture.—Bristol.—Ancient Traffic in Slaves.—Vicissitudes of City.—Present Prosperity.—Objects of Interest.—St. Mary Redcliffe.—The Poet Chatterton.—Sebastian Cabot.—Discovery of America.—First Umbrella in England.—Clifton.—Cheltenham.—Clothing Districts of Gloucestershire.—Changes that have taken place.—Stroud.—Its Manufactures.—Berkeley Castle.—Dr. Jenner.—Cirencester.—Roman Remains.—Amphitheatre.—Present State of Town.—Woodchester.—Fairford Church . . . Page 265

CONVERSATION XVI

OXFORDSHIRE.

SUBJECTS : — Boundaries. — Size. — Ancient Inhabitants. — Chiltern Hills. — Oxford.—Foundation of University erroneously ascribed to Alfred the Great. — Earliest Efforts for Education of Laity.—Strolling Minstrels of Olden Time.—General Ignorance of People.—Resistance of Oxford to William the Conqueror.—Wars of Stephen and the Empress Maude.—Queen Elizabeth a Patron to the University.—Martyrdom of Cranmer, Ridley, and Latimer.—Colleges and other Buildings of Oxford.—Magnificence of City.—Blenheim Palace.—Maze or Labyrinth.—Manufactures of Woodstock.—Banbury.—For what celebrated.—Witney.—Introduction of Blanket Manufacture.—Present State of Trade.—Chipping Norton.—Henley-on-Thames and other Places.—Evidences of Roman Occupation.—Rollrich Stones . . . 285

CONVERSATION XVII

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

SUBJECTS : — Boundaries. — Size. — Ancient Inhabitants. — Subjugation by Romans.—Chiltern Hills.—Industrial Resources.—Buckingham.—Aylesbury.—Manufacture of Lace.—Ancient Tenure of Manor.—John Hampden.—Ship-Money.—Hampden's Death.—Noble Conduct of Charles the First.—Chief Rivers of County.—High Wycombe.—Great Marlow.—Eton.—Eton Montem.—Burnham Beeches.—Poet Gray.—Olney.—Newport Pagnell.—Stony Stratford 299

CONVERSATION XVIII.

BEDFORDSHIRE.

SUBJECTS:—Bedford Level.—Boundaries of County.—Size.—Chief Rivers.—Ancient Inhabitants.—Conquest by Romans.—Depredation of Danes.—Ancient Name of County Town.—Destruction of Bedford Castle.—Clever Expedient.—John Bunyan.—“Pilgrim’s Progress.”—Present Condition of Bedford.—Extensive Charities.—Extraordinary Increase in Value of Ancient Benefaction.—Lace-making.—Luton.—Straw Plait Manufacture.—Leighton Buzzard.—Manufactures.—Dunstable.—Derivation of Name.—Beautiful Church.—Celebrated Manufactures.—Biggleswade.—Woburn.—Amphill Page 311

CONVERSATION XIX.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE.

SUBJECTS:—Bedford Level.—Ancient State.—Waste Land reclaimed.—Earl of Bedford.—Nefarious Action of Charles the First.—Opposition of Cromwell.—Boundaries of County.—Size.—Derivation of Name.—Celebrated “Meres.”—Extraordinary Transformation.—“Snare of the Fowler.”—Useful Lesson to be learnt from Wild-Fowl.—Industrial Occupations of the People.—Huntingdon.—Its Antiquity.—Present State.—Oliver Cromwell.—Early Character.—Connection with Puritans.—Personal Appearance and Manner.—Military Ability.—Faithlessness of Charles the First.—Protectorate of Cromwell.—Mental Disquietude of latter Days.—Godmanchester.—Supposed Roman Station.—St. Ives.—St. Neot’s.—Ramsey.—Kimbolton.—Yaxley.—Stilton.—Changes effected by Railways 321

CONVERSATION XX.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

SUBJECTS:—Boundaries.—Size.—Occupation by Romans.—General Features.—Chief Rivers.—Northampton.—Singular Tenure.—Ancient Importance of Farriers’ Art.—Historical Associations of Northampton.—Margaret of Anjou.—Naseby.—Destructive Fire.—Manufactures.—Magnificent Cross.—Brixworth Church.—Peterborough Cathedral.—Desecration by Cromwell’s Soldiers.—Trade of City.—Wellingborough.—Kettering.—Andrew Fuller.—Daventry.—Ancient Camp.—Simplicity of Ancient Fortifications.

— Judith Countess of Northumberland. — Manufactures of Daventry. — Oundle. — Fotheringay Castle. — Historical Recollections. — Mary Queen of Scots. — Unjust Trial. — Excellency of our present Criminal Laws. — Duplicity of Queen Elizabeth. — Execution of Scottish Queen. — Destruction of Fotheringay Castle. — Towcester. — Discovery of Roman Antiquities. — Appalling Disclosure Page 337

CONVERSATION XXI.

RUTLANDSHIRE.

SUBJECTS :— Rutland formerly included in other Counties — Boundaries. — Size. — Ancient Inhabitants. — Principal Occupations. — Battle of Lose-Coat Field. — Oakham. — Singular Ancient Custom. — Jeffrey Hudson. — Royal Entertainment. — Uppingham. — Ecclesiastical Antiquities of County. — Principal Rivers 353

CONVERSATION XXII.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

SUBJECTS :— Robin Hood. — Question of real Existence. — Character estimated according to the Requirements of Scripture. — Boundaries of County. — Size. — Chief Rivers. — Ancient Inhabitants. — Traces of Romans. — Sherwood Forest. — Clipstone Park. — Nottingham. — Derivation of Name. — Nottingham Castle. — Norman Injustice. — Historical Recollections. — Modern Mansion on Castle Hill. — Subterranean Rocks. — Manufactures of the Town. — Invention of Stocking Frame. — William Lee. — Success and Discouragements. — Machinery applied to Manufacture of Lace. — Elegance of Productions. — Lace formerly wholly imported. — Henry Kirke White. — Newark. — Death of King John. — Trade of Town. — Mansfield. — Formerly a Royal Residence. — Manufactures. — Workshp. — Southwell. — Collegiate Church. — Newstead Abbey 359

CONVERSATION XXIII.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

SUBJECTS :— Aspect of County. — Charnwood Forest. — Bradgate Park. — Lady Jane Grey. — Boundaries of County. — Size. — Chief Rivers. — Mineral Produce. — Ancient Inhabitants. — Norman Arrogance. — Industrial Resources of County. — Leicester a Roman Town. — Ancient Name of River

Soar.—Leicester under the Dominion of Saxons.—Insecure Position of Norman Nobles.—Leicester Abbey.—Cardinal Wolsey.—Salutary Reflections.—Leicester during Civil Wars.—Jewry Wall.—Evidence of Roman Workmanship.—Former Hatred of Jews.—Loughborough.—Hinckley.—Ashby de la Zouch.—Melton Mowbray.—Lutterworth.—John Wycliffe.—Bosworth Field.—Union of rival Houses of York and Lancaster.—Belvoir Castle Page 374

CONVERSATION XXIV.

LINCOLNSHIRE.

SUBJECTS:—Principal Seat of Danish Immigration.—Influence on Names of Places.—Boundaries of County.—Size.—Early Inhabitants.—Ancient Divisions of County.—Character of Soil.—Draining of Fens.—Abundance of Wild Fowl.—Principal Rivers.—City of Lincoln.—Its great Antiquity.—Newport Gate.—Hermin Street.—Depredations of Danes.—Danish Sovereigns of England.—Norman Injustice and Rapacity.—Ancient Importance of Lincoln.—Historical Reminiscences.—Louis, Dauphin of France.—Cathedral.—Hugh de Grenoble.—Ancient Magnificence of Cathedral.—Trade of City.—Boston.—Destructive Fire by Incendiary.—Church of St. Botolph.—Tutelar Saints.—John Fox.—Grantham.—Sir Isaac Newton.—Early Predilections.—Original Destination.—Important Discoveries.—Religious Character.—Honour paid to his Remains.—First Success of Cromwell.—Stamford.—Grimsby, and other Towns.—Croyland Abbey.—Sale of Indulgences.—John Tetzel.—Martin Luther.—Glorious Reformation 385

CONVERSATION XXV.

NORFOLK.

SUBJECTS:—Signification of Name.—Boundaries.—Size.—The Wash.—Contemplated Improvements.—Ancient Inhabitants.—Danish Invasion of East Anglia.—Unwise Coalition.—Remarkable Change in Condition of County.—Method of reclaiming Land from the Sea.—Superiority of Agriculture.—Fine Turkeys.—City of Norwich.—Greater antiquity of Caistor.—Depredations of Danes.—Decline of Population at Period of Norman Survey.—Introduction of the Worsted Manufacture.—Village of Worsted.—Insurrection of Kett the Tanner.—Effects of the Dissolution of Monastic Houses.—Prosperity of Norwich in Reign of Elizabeth.—Character of Manufactures.—Cathedral.—Desecration by Puritans.—Unpopularity of

Charles the First. — Chief Rivers. — Great Yarmouth, as it was and is. — Herring Fishery. — King's Lynn. — Castle Rising. — Circumstance which gave rise to the present Name of King's Lynn. — Appropriation of Church Revenues by Henry the Eighth. — Historical Recollections of King's Lynn. — Norfolk Estuary Works. — Present State of Town. — Cromer. — Inundations and Encroachments of Sea. — Wymondham. — Thetford. — Burnham Thorpe. — Admiral Nelson. — Early Abilities. — Subsequent Successes. — Battle of the Nile. — Battle of Trafalgar. — Character as Commander. — Remains of Monastic Houses. — Walsingham Priory. — Religious Pilgrimages. — Self Mortification natural to fallen Man. — Imputed Righteousness Page 403

CONVERSATION XXVI.

SUFFOLK.

SUBJECTS:— Boundaries. — Size. — Early Inhabitants. — Evidences of occupancy by Romans. — Burgh Castle. — Suffolk included in Danelagh. — Natural Features and Resources. — Principal Rivers. — Ipswich. — Cardinal Wolsey. — Humble Origin. — Church Preferment. — Introduction to Henry the Eighth. — Inordinate Ambition. — Nicholas Breakspear. — Wolsey's Mode of Life. — Hospitality. — Wolsey a Patron of Learning. — Rise to highest Offices in Church and State. — Trade of Ipswich. — Bury St. Edmund's. — Signification of Name. — Edmund surnamed the Martyr. — Assassination by Danes. — Celebrated Monastery. — St. Edmund's Shrine. — Canute. — Early Signification of the Term Pagan. — Grand Meeting of confederated Barons. — Vicissitudes of Town of Bury St. Edmund's. — Ruins of Ancient Abbey. — Lowestoft. — Recent Improvements. — Sir Samuel Morton Peto, Bart. — Fisheries. — Engagement between English and Dutch. — Sudbury, and other Towns. — Dunwich. — Ancient Importance. — Present Insignificance. — Declension a remarkable Exception to the general State of Places in England 420

CONVERSATION XXVII.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

SUBJECTS:— Boundaries. — Size. — Ancient Inhabitants. — General Features. — Isle of Ely. — Cambridge. — Destruction by Danes. — Resistance to William the Conqueror. — Hereward le Wake. — Destructive Rebellion. — Character of William Rufus. — Origin of University. — Number of Colleges. — Manner in which Education was anciently carried on. — Comparison of

Oxford and Cambridge. — Principal Rivers. — City of Ely. — Cathedral. — Canute the Great. — Partiality for Fen District. — Personal Appearance. — Atrocities inflicted by William the Conqueror. — Civil Wars. — Principal Productions. — Wisbeach. — March. — Newmarket Page 433

CONVERSATION XXVIII.

HERTFORDSHIRE.

SUBJECTS: — Derivation of Name. — Boundaries. — Size. — Interesting County to the Archæologist. — Ancient Inhabitants. — Memento of Cassivelaunus. — Character of Scenery. — Hastings the Danish Pirate. — River Lea covered with Danish Ships. — Clever Expedient of Alfred the Great. — Magnanimous Conduct of Alfred. — Hertford. — Historical Recollections. — Hertford Castle. — Trade of Town. — St. Albans. — Ancient Verulam. — Proto-Martyr of Christianity. — Magnificent Monastery. — Sense in which Roman Catholics use the Term "Religious." — Abbey of St. Albans. — Contemplated Elevation to the Rank of Cathedral. — St. Michael's Church. — Lord Bacon. — Early Precocity. — Patronage of Queen Elizabeth. — Lord Bacon a Reformer of Education. — His Deviation from Rectitude. — Human Wisdom insufficient to restrain in the Hour of Temptation. — Battles between Yorkists and Lancastrians. — Success of Margaret of Anjou. — Trade of St. Albans. — Hemel-Hempstead, and other Towns. — Bishop's Stortford. — King John's Quarrel with the Pope. — Kingdom under an Interdict. — John's Resignation of his Kingdom to the Pope. — Persecution of Protestants in Mary's Reign. — Present State of Town. — Berkhamstead. — Abbot of St. Albans. — Obstruction of Progress of William the Conqueror. — William Cowper. — Trials of School Days. — Mental Malady. — Bishop's Hatfield. — Scene of Queen Elizabeth's First Privy Council 446

CONVERSATION XXIX.

ESSEX.

SUBJECTS: — Derivation of Name. — Boundaries. — Size. — Ancient Inhabitants. — Alliance with Romans. — Total Subjection. — Unimportant Islands. — Chelmsford. — Colchester. — Its great Antiquity. — Evidences of Occupation by Romans. — Depredations of Danes. — Foundation of British Navy. — Civil Wars of John and the Barons. — Loyalty of Townspeople to Queen Mary. — Burning of Protestants. — The Blessing of perfect Religious Liberty. — Siege of Colchester in Civil Wars of Charles the First. — Colchester Castle. — Ancient Manufactures. — Celebrated for Oysters. — Barking. — Fire-bell Gate. — Curfew. — Barking Abbey. — Power anciently possessed by Heads

of Monastic Houses. — Harwich. — Saffron Walden, and other Towns. — Waltham Abbey. — Waltham Cross. — Southend. — Epping. — Hainault. — Fairlop Oak. — Tilbury Fort. — Invincible Armada. — Intrepidity of Queen Elizabeth. — Result of Spanish Expedition Page 465

CONVERSATION XXX.

MIDDLESEX.

SUBJECTS:—Signification of Name. — Boundaries. — Size. — Chief Rivers. — Ancient Inhabitants. — Character of Scenery. — London. — Opinions as to Derivation of Name. — Chief Cause of Mercantile Greatness. — Revolt of Britons under Boadicea. — Ancient City Walls. — London Stone. — Roman Antiquities. — Extent of Metropolis. — Population. — Earliest Christian Church. — Old St. Paul's. — Incongruities without and within. — Present Cathedral. — Paul's Cross. — Memory of Monastic Establishments preserved in present Names of Places. — Paternoster Row as it was and is. — Westminster. — Caxton. — First Printing Press. — The Influence of Printing on the Roman Catholic Religion. — Tardy Progress of the Art on its first Introduction. — Present teeming State of the Press. — Increase in Demand for Literature within last Century. — Signification of Westminster. — Westminster Abbey. — Ancient Palace. — Westminster Hall and its Associations. — New Houses of Parliament. — Whitehall and its Associations. — Execution of Charles the First. — Preservation of Statue. — Tower of London and its Associations. — Principal Attractions. — Royal Palaces. — Present Condition of Metropolis. — The great Pestilence. — Fire of London. — London in Olden Time. — Introduction of Gas. — Establishment of Public Conveyances. — Rural Festivities in the Strand. — Erection of May-Poles. — May Fair and Pall Mall. — Memorials of Ancient Customs. — The Strand as it is and was. — Manufactures of the Metropolis. — Spitalfields. — Metropolitan Police. — The dark Side of the Picture. — Necessity for Christian Prayer and Exertion. — Unimportant Towns of Middlesex. — Chelsea Hospital 477

CONVERSATION XXXI.

KENT.

SUBJECTS:—Situation. — Boundaries. — Size. — Scene of early Conflict. — Fertility of County. — For what celebrated. — Principal Rivers. — Canterbury, the Ecclesiastical Capital of England. — Pre-eminence of Archbishop of Canterbury. — Canterbury a Roman Town. — Mission of Augustine. — Reception by Ethelbert and his Queen Bertha. — Conversion of Ethelbert. — Spread of Christianity. — Canterbury Cathedral. — Shrine of Thomas à

Becket. — Character and Mode of Life. — Circumstances of his Death. — His Canonisation. — Contributions made at his Shrine. — Antiquity of Rochester Cathedral. — Castle. — Great Naval Station of Chatham. — Greenwich. — Royal Hospital. — Ancient Palace. — Residence of Queen Elizabeth. — Painted Hall. — Flamstead House. — Blackheath. — Scene of various Insurgent Factions. — Woolwich. — Dockyard. — Great Harry. — Leviathan. — Royal Arsenal. — Rotunda. — Deptford. — Royal Dockyard. — Peter the Great. — Saye's Court. — Victualling Office. — Dover. — Ancient Castle. — Roman Fortifications. — Norman Towers. — Historical Recollections. — Achievements of Engineering Skill. — Present Condition of Town. — Deal. — Landing-place of invading Romans. — Downs. — Town of Deal. — Goodwin Sands. — Isle of Thanet. — Celebrated Watering-Places. — Richborough Castle. — Hengist and Horsa. — Village of Reculver. — Isle of Sheppey. — Gravesend. — Sydenham Crystal Palace. — Maidstone, Faversham, and other Towns . . . : Page 500

CONVERSATION XXXII.

SUSSEX.

SUBJECTS : — Boundaries. — Size. — Ancient Fortifications. — Early Inhabitants. — Subjugation by Vespasian. — Natural Divisions. — Former Mineral Wealth. — Chief Rivers. — City of Chichester. — Cathedral. — Former Manufacture. — Changes on the Coast of Sussex. — Winchelsea. — Brighton. — Discovery of Chalybeate Spring. — Patronage of George the Fourth. — Royal Pavilion. — Chain Pier. — Prosperity of Town. — New Shoreham. — Hastings. — Landing of William the Conqueror. — Pretensions to English Crown. — First Steps on Landing. — Battle of Hastings. — Victory long doubtful. — Decided by a well-executed Stratagem. — Death of Harold. — Battle Abbey. — Division of County among Followers of Conqueror. — Town of Hastings. — St. Leonard's. — Lewes. — Celebrated Battle. — Character of Edward the First. — Horsham. — Worthing. — Arundel. — Picturesque Scenery. — Arundel Castle. — Historical Recollections. — Modern Festival in commemoration of the signing of Magna Charta 523

CONVERSATION XXXIII.

SURREY.

SUBJECTS : — Boundaries. — Size. — Ancient Inhabitants. — Invasion of Romans. — Coway-Stakes. — Vigorous Resistance of Britons. — Final Subjugation. — Fine Scenery. — Chief Rivers. — Guildford. — Ancient Castle. — Runnymede.

—Provisions of Magna Charta.— Meeting of King John and the Barons.— Signature of Magna Charta.— Arbitrary Laws.— John's Regret at the Concessions granted.— Ancient Errors of Sovereign and People.— Power now judiciously balanced and defined.— Croydon.— Entertainment to Queen Elizabeth.— Kingston-upon-Thames.— Coronation Stone.— Farnham.— Hops.— Noble Castle.— Ruins of Waverley Abbey.— Chertsey.— Benedictine Abbey.— Poet Cowley.— Godalming.— Dorking.— Epsom Races : Evils not unfrequently attendant.— Epsom Salts.— Richmond.— Populous Parishes.— Rural Villages.— Putney.— Thomas Cromwell.— Ann of Cleves.— Holbein.— Lambeth.— Hardicanute.— Singular Law made by Edgar.— Lambeth Palace.— Persecuted Lollards.— Forerunners of the Reformation.— Gunpowder Plot.— Religious Intolerance of James the First and Elizabeth.— Blessing of perfect Religious Liberty Page 537

CONVERSATION XXXIV.

HAMPSHIRE.

SUBJECTS: — New Forest.— Selfishness of William the Conqueror.— Boundaries of County.— Size.— Chief Rivers.— Ancient Inhabitants.— Conquest by Romans.— Diversity of Scenery.— Improved System of Cultivation.— Mineral Produce.— City of Winchester.— Great Antiquity.— Early Importance.— Ancient Seat of Learning.— Alfred the Great.— Ignorance of Clergy.— Superior Rank of Bishop.— Cathedral.— Amusing Anecdote.— Gospel Oak.— William of Wykeham.— Hospital of St. Cross.— Historical Recollections.— Decline in Importance.— Portsmouth.— Portsea.— Dockyard.— Historical Recollections.— Gosport.— Haslar Hospital.— Southampton.— Canute the Great.— Dr. Isaac Watts.— Netley Abbey.— Beaulieu Abbey.— Privilege of Sanctuary.— Perkin Warbeck.— Cities of Refuge.— Margaret of Anjou.— Silchester.— Basingstoke, and other Towns.— Isle of Wight.— Size.— Solent Sea.— Independent Lords of Wight.— Magnificent Scenery.— Newport.— Carisbrook Castle.— Charles the First.— Colonel Hammond.— Disappointment of Charles.— His Captivity at Carisbrook.— Ineffectual Attempts to Escape.— Removal to Hurst Castle.— Carisbrook Castle the Prison-Home of his youngest Children.— Death of Princess Elizabeth.— Ryde.— Magnificent Scenery.— Shanklin Chine.— Black-Gang and other celebrated Chines.— The Undercliff.— Ventnor.— The Needles.— Scratchell's Bay.— West Cowes.— East Cowes.— Osborne House.— Contrast between the Condition of Queen Victoria and that of Charles the First.— Condition of People equally Improved.— Causes to which the happy Change may be ascribed 552

CONVERSATION XXXV.

BERKSHIRE.

SUBJECTS:—Size of County.—Boundaries.—Ancient Inhabitants.—Celebrated Battles.—White Horse Hill.—“Scouring the Horse.”—Fertility of Vale of White Horse.—Ancient and Present industrial Resources.—Chief Rivers.—Reading.—Historical Recollections.—Ruins of Ancient Abbey.—Archbishop Laud.—English Liturgy in Scottish Churches.—Ancient and present Importance of Reading.—Windsor.—Windsor Castle.—Royal Forest.—Improvements made to the Castle by Edward the Third.—Impressed Workmen.—Windsor Castle abandoned as a Royal Residence.—Reconstructed by George the Fourth.—St. George’s Chapel.—Historical Associations of Windsor Castle.—James the First of Scotland.—Lady Jane Beaufort.—Virginia Water.—Victoria and Albert Bridges.—Town of Windsor.—Abingdon.—Ancient Name and State.—Celebrated Abbey.—Henry the First.—Civil Wars of Charles the First.—Newbury.—Lord Falkland.—Hungerford.—Maidenhead.—Faringdon.—Wallingford.—Ancient Castle.—Submission of Stigand and Saxon Nobles to William the Conqueror.—Meeting of Empress Maude and her son Prince Henry.—Ancient Importance of Wallingford.—Present State.—Wantage.—Alfred the Great.—Visit to Rome.—Consecration by the Pope.—Present State of Wantage, Page 573

CONVERSATION XXXVI.

WILTSHIRE.

SUBJECTS:—Ancient Possessions of the Church of Rome.—Boundaries of the County.—Size.—Conquest by Romans.—Engagements with Danes.—Natural Features.—Mineral Produce.—Salisbury Plain.—Manufactures.—Ancient Capital.—Salisbury.—Old Sarum.—Ancient Importance.—Causes of Decline.—Salisbury Cathedral.—Woolen Manufacture.—Chief Rivers of County.—Stonehenge.—Avebury.—Trowbridge.—Devizes.—Malmesbury.—Magnificent Abbey.—Its Origin.—Ancient Possessions.—Beautiful Ruins.—Market-Cross.—William of Malmesbury.—Trade of Town.—Chippenham.—Swindon.—Changes effected by Railways.—Swindon New and Old Towns.—Marlborough.—Warminster, and other Towns . 591

CONVERSATION XXXVII.

DORSETSHIRE.

SUBJECTS : — Boundaries. — Size. — Ancient Inhabitants. — Memorials of Romans. — British Coins. — Mackerel Fishery. — Dorchester a Roman Station. — Amphitheatre. — Massacre of Danes. — Calamities of the Town. — Disaffection of Inhabitants to Charles the First. — Appearance of Town. — Chief Rivers of County. — Isle of Portland. — Chesil Bank. — Singular Formation. — Decline of illicit Trade. — Portland Stone. — Portlanders. — Portland Breakwater. — Town of Chesil. — Weymouth. — Foundation of present Celebrity. — Poole. — Extensive Pottery Works. — Bridport. — Blandford. — Lyme Regis. — Duke of Monmouth's Rebellion. — Battle of Sedgemoor. — Monmouth's Execution. — Bloody Assize. — Ancient Monastic Establishments. — Town of Corfe Castle. — Erection of ancient Castle. — Assassination of Edward the Martyr. — Destruction of the Castle. — Gloomy old Ruins. — Superstition of Peasantry. — Nocturnal Appearances satisfactorily accounted for,

Page 604

CONVERSATION XXXVIII.

SOMERSETSHIRE.

SUBJECTS : — Boundaries. — Size. — Early Inhabitants. — Conquest by Vespaſian. — Stanton Drew. — Natural Features. — Mendip Hills. — Cheddar Cliffs. — Mineral Productions. — Cheddar Cheese. — Chief Rivers of County. — Ancient Capital. — City of Bath. — Roman Name. — Temperature of Hot Springs. — Magnificence of City. — Beauty of Situation. — Buildings compared to the Tiers of an Amphitheatre. — Former Gaities and Frivolities. — Beau Nash. — Despotic Reign in World of Fashion. — Personal Appearance. — Decline of Popularity. — Striking Comment on the Declaration of Holy Writ. — Men whose Lives have conferred lasting Benefits on Posterity. — Present State of Bath. — Historical Recollections. — Abbey Church. — City of Wells. — Cathedral. — Union of the See of Bath and Wells. — Causes which led to it. — Taunton. — Historical Reminiscences. — Ancient Manufactures. — Present Importance. — Bridgewater. — Destruction of Castle during Civil Wars. — Monmouth's Troops encamped on Castle Field. — Fatal Engagement. — Admiral Blake. — War with Holland. — Van Trompe. — Defeat of English. — Dutch Admiral's Audacity. — Ultimate Victory of Blake. — Trade of Bridgewater. — Isle of Athelney. — Flight and Concealment of Alfred the Great. — Ascendency of Danes. — Final Overthrow. — Frome. — Selwood Forest. — Yeovil. — Weston-super-Mara. — Glastonbury Abbey. — Affirmed

Antiquity.—Extraordinary Magnificence.—Amazing Wealth.—Holy Thorn.—Monkiah Legend.—Beautiful Ruins.—Hospitality of Monks.—Dissolution of Abbey.—Tor Hill and other Relics of Monastic Times . . . Page 620

CONVERSATION XXXIX.

DEVONSHIRE.

SUBJECTS :—Beauty of Climate.—Boundaries of County.—Size.—Ancient Inhabitants.—Traces of Romans.—Former Value of Tin Mines.—Present Produce.—Stannary Courts.—Natural Features and Productions.—Mineral Wealth.—Dartmoor Forest.—Devonshire “Tors.”—Exeter.—Historical Recollections.—Expedition of the Prince of Orange.—Blessings derived from the glorious Revolution.—Situation of Exeter.—Cathedral.—Plymouth.—Ancient State.—Plymouth Sound.—Plymouth Breakwater.—Devonport.—Royal Dockyard.—Great Western Docks.—East Stonehouse.—Eddystone Lighthouse.—Fate of previous Structures.—Peculiarity of Construction of present Edifice.—Isolated Situation of Lighthouse Keepers.—Necessity for Divine Support.—Barnstaple.—Ancient and present Manufacture.—Tiverton.—Former manufacturing Importance.—Tavistock.—Extensive Mines.—Honiton.—Lace Manufacture.—Torquay.—Mildness of Climate.—Kent’s Cavern.—Torbay.—Brixham.—Landing Place of Prince of Orange.—Commercial Importance.—Celebrated Watering-Places,

643

CONVERSATION XL.

CORNWALL.

SUBJECTS :—Attractions of “Old England.”—Cornwall formerly little visited by English Tourists.—Unfounded Prejudices.—Boundaries.—Size.—Scilly Isles.—St. Mary’s.—Industrial Pursuits.—Duchy of Cornwall.—Early Traffic.—Ancient Inhabitants.—Traces of Romans.—Struggles of Cornish Britons against Saxons.—Diversity in Aspect of County.—Cheese Wring.—Logan or Rocking Stones.—Toulmen.—Mineral Productions.—Annual Mineral Wealth of England.—Chief Mining District.—Stannary Courts.—Launceston.—Chief Rivers of County.—Liskeard.—Bodmin.—Historical Recollections.—St. Austle.—Truro.—China Clay.—Redruth.—Falmouth.—Pendennis Castle.—Black Rock.—Penryn.—St. Ives.—Penzance.—Mount’s Bay.—Historical Reminiscences.—Wife of Perkin Warbeck.—Mines of St. Just.—Amphitheatres.—Antiquities and Natural Curiosities.—Land’s End.—Review of England as it was and is 659

CONVERSATIONS ON ENGLAND

AS IT WAS AND IS.

INTRODUCTION.

“INDEED I do feel proud that I was born a Briton!” said Herbert Leslie to his mother, laying down a small volume which he had been attentively perusing.

“Rather say *thankful*, Herbert,” suggested Mrs. Leslie.

“Well, then, thankful, mamma—yes, I am sure I may say thankful; for when we read of the persecutions to which some of our fellow-creatures are exposed, simply for reading the Bible, we cannot but feel thankful that our lot has been cast in happy England.”

“I am pleased to hear you express such sentiments of patriotism, my dear boy,” returned his mother; “patriotism, too, founded on the highest and noblest principles. It is one thing to love our country merely because it is our native land, which doubtless many an oppressed Tuscan or Russian serf may do; but quite another thing to love her for the excellency of her government and laws, and for that inestimable blessing which is the birthright of every Englishman—civil and religious liberty.”

Herbert Leslie had just attained his fourteenth year. His education was being pursued under the superintendence of an excellent clergyman who resided in the neighbourhood; while at the same time his mental faculties were daily gaining strength, and the best feelings of his nature were developing under the

watchful care of an intelligent and judicious mother. The little volume which had called into exercise his patriotic feelings, and at the same time aroused his indignation against religious persecution, was entitled, "The Prisoners of Hope," and contained an account of the incarceration of Rosa and Francesco Madiari, the well-known victims of Tuscan oppression and intolerance; and while he again turned to its soul-harrowing details, his little brother Willie, who had been quietly sitting on an ottoman at his mother's side, exclaimed, "I know a verse of a hymn, mamma, which says just the same thing that you and Herbert have been talking of."

"Then let us hear it, my love," replied his mother; and slowly and distinctly little Willie repeated the admirable lines of Dr. Watts:—

"I would not change my native land
For rich Peru and all her gold;
A nobler prize lies in my hand
Than East or Western Indies hold."

"Good child!" said Mrs. Leslie. "But can you tell me, Willie, the meaning of that verse?"

"Oh! yes, to be sure, mamma! It means that our own country is the very best country in the world."

"But what is the prize that is spoken of, my love; that noble prize which we all possess, and which is better than all the treasures this world can boast?"

Willie thought a moment, and then replied, "I suppose it is the Bible, mamma."

"It is, my dear," said Mrs. Leslie; then turning to a girl of twelve, who sat beside her, she continued, "perhaps, Willie, your sister Kate can mention a verse in which the Psalmist expresses the same sentiment as that declared by Dr. Watts."

"Oh! yes, mamma; it occurs to my mind in a moment," answered Kate; "David says, 'Thy word is dearer to me than thousands of gold and silver.'"

"And such will be the declaration of the earnest-minded Christian of every age and clime," replied her mother; "for there

cannot be so great a blessing to any land as the free circulation of the sacred Scriptures. To that cause more than to any other, I believe, we, as a nation, are indebted for our distinguished privileges, and for the high position which we hold among the nations of the earth. Art, science, and commerce have doubtless exerted a mighty influence in advancing us in the scale of civilisation, and in adding to our national prosperity; but yet, I believe, the brightest jewel in our nation's crown is an open Bible — free to every rank and grade of men."

"I know there was a time," said Willie, "when Bibles were very scarce even in England; for I have read of their being found only in churches, where they were kept chained to the reading-desk."

"And not only in matters of religion, Willie, but in nearly every other respect, our own dear England was once in a very different state from that in which we find it. Its natural features were, of course, the same; its extent of land and water, its mountains and its valleys, and the treasures which lie hidden in the bosom of the earth; but it was in a vastly different condition as regards the comforts and conveniences of life."

"Do you know, mamma," said Marion, the eldest of Mrs. Leslie's children, who had entered the room during the latter part of the conversation, "I have been thinking what an interesting occupation it would be to devote an hour occasionally to conversations on our native land, and contrast its present with its former state. Although Katie and I are perfectly acquainted with the map of England, and know a great deal of English history, there is yet a great deal that we do not know; and if you would kindly join in our conversations, I am sure they would not only be interesting, but highly instructive."

"I think yours a very good idea, Marion," replied her mother, "and one that will meet with my hearty concurrence and co-operation; but as I like method to be pursued in all our plans, I propose that we devote an hour once a week to the subject; take one county at a time, and discuss any topic of interest, either geographical or historical, which is associated with it."

"Thank you, thank you, dear mamma; that will be delightful!" exclaimed the happy group: "and," added Katie, "the new year, you know, mamma, begins next week; let us commence our conversations on New Year's Day."

"With all my heart, my love," was the prompt and affectionate reply; "but," continued Mrs. Leslie, "as I wish these conversations to be of benefit to all, not excepting little Willie, the elder ones among you must expect occasionally to have to exercise patience in listening to particulars with which you are already well acquainted. We will commence our conversations on the counties of England on New Year's Day; but perhaps we had better seek a little introductory information this morning. You can tell me, of course, Katie, what are the boundaries of England."

KATE.

Oh! yes, mamma: England is bounded on the north by Scotland, from which it is divided by the river Tweed, the Cheviot Hills and Solway Frith; on the south by the English or British Channel; on the east by the German Ocean; and on the west by the Irish Sea, the principality of Wales, the Bristol Channel, and the Atlantic Ocean.

MRS. LESLIE.

Quite right, Katie. I dare say you remember that the extreme length of England is 345 miles; and its width at the widest part, that is, along the southern coast, 340 miles. Herbert, I dare say will tell us what is the earliest account we have of this country.

HERBERT.

I think the first mention made of it in history is, that it was visited a great many centuries ago by the Phœnicians, who came to Cornwall to trade for tin, with which that county abounds. I have heard that *Britannia*, the ancient name of England, means in their language, the land of tin. .

MRS. LESLIE.

So many different opinions have been expressed by ancient writers as to the derivation of the name *Britannia*, that we cannot

expect to arrive at any satisfactory conclusion on the subject; so it will be as well for Katie at once to tell us what is known respecting the early inhabitants of Britain.

KATE.

I believe there are very few accounts of them until about fifty-five years before the birth of Christ, when Julius Cæsar first attempted their conquest.

WILLIE.

Julius Cæsar! That was the great Roman general who wanted to make himself master of this country, when the people lived in wretched huts, and painted their bodies instead of wearing clothes.

HERBERT.

But you know he did not succeed in doing so at first, Willie. The ancient Britons were a brave and warlike people, and would not submit to be conquered by the Romans; they therefore defended their country to the utmost of their power; but as they had no swords or spears like the Romans, most likely they would have been easily overcome, had it not been for a violent storm, which destroyed so many of Cæsar's ships, that he thought it better to return as soon as possible to Gaul or France, from which he at first set out.

KATE.

But you know, Willie, the Romans did at last succeed in conquering Britain, for they came again several years after, when the Britons were entirely defeated, and Caractacus their king was taken prisoner to Rome.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; the Romans were entire masters of this country more than 400 years, but they did a great deal of good while they remained. They taught the natives many useful arts; they made excellent roads, many of which are now remaining; they erected towns and fortresses, of which we shall have to give some account in our projected conversations; and it was from the Romans that Britain received the greatest boon that can be given to mankind—the introduction of Christianity.

MARION.

But it was not while Britain was under the dominion of the Romans, you know, mamma, that Christianity was introduced. They had left it nearly two hundred years when St. Augustine came as a missionary from Rome. It was to the Saxons that he was sent.

MRS. LESLIE.

You are under a very common error, my love, relative to the earliest introduction of Christianity. St. Augustine did not *introduce*, but revived it, the Britons having been instructed in the true faith by the Romans, probably as early as the first or second century. Christianity, however, was almost totally annihilated by the pagan Saxons who succeeded, and it was to attempt their conversion that St. Augustine was sent by Pope Gregory in the year 596.

MARION.

Thank you, mamma; you have put me right upon a most interesting subject. I always thought St. Augustine was the first person who introduced Christianity to Britain.

HERBERT.

And I always thought until the other day, that the Augustine of whom you have been speaking was the great Augustine, Bishop of Hippo in Africa.

MARION.

You surprise me, Herbert. Surely they were one and the same person.

HERBERT.

The great Augustine, as he is generally called, died A. D. 430, therefore could not have been the same who came to this country in 596. He is called St. Austin, or St. Augustine.

WILLIE.

Mamma, Marion said St. Augustine came here as a missionary; did she mean just the same as the missionaries we send out to the heathen now?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, my dear, and the poor Saxons, as well as the ancient Britons some centuries before, needed Christian instruction quite as much as the savage South Sea islander, or the idolatrous Hindoo, of whom we hear at our missionary meetings. Have you not heard, Willie, that the earliest inhabitants of Britain of whom we have any account, were idolaters, and worshipped the sun, and moon, and fire, and water, and that they sacrificed human beings upon their altars?

WILLIE.

Oh! yes, I remember now, and their priests were called Druids. It was very kind of Pope Gregory to send St. Augustine to teach them all about the true God. I wonder how he came to think of such a thing.

MRS. LESLIE.

The Venerable Bede, a learned and pious monk who lived in the 7th century, relates that Gregory's pity was excited by seeing some lovely boys exposed for sale in the market-place at Rome; and that, after admiring their fair complexions and flaxen locks, he inquired from what country or nation they came. He was told from the Isle of Britain, and that the inhabitants of that island were called Angles. He then inquired whether they were Christians or pagans; and on being informed that they were still in the darkness of paganism, he said, as they were called Angles, and had angelic looks, it was fit that they should be fellow-heirs with the angels in heaven. He then went to the Pope (for this happened before he was Pope himself) and begged him to send some ministers of the gospel into Britain, by whose means the inhabitants might be converted unto Christ. And so St. Augustine and forty other missionaries came to our country, and revived that holy religion which the pagan Saxons had nearly rooted out.

WILLIE.

Who were the Saxons, mamma? and why did they come to this island?

MRS. LESLIE.

After the Romans had had possession of Britain above 400 years, they left the island because they were required to fight the battles of their country nearer home. The poor Britons, who had been accustomed to look up to them in every difficulty, were quite at a loss what to do without them; especially as the Picts and Scots, some barbarous people from the north, were continually making war upon them. In this difficulty, Vortigern, their commander, sent for the Saxons, a people from the north of Germany, to come and help them; but the Saxons proved to be faithless friends; for, being highly pleased with the rich lands, and abundance of good things they found in Britain, they entered into an agreement with the Picts to make war upon the people who had invited them over, and so the poor frightened inhabitants were again conquered and subdued.

WILLIE.

And what became of them, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

They fled in large numbers towards the west, where they sought shelter among the almost inaccessible mountains of Wales, while the Saxons firmly established themselves in Britain.

KATE.

But after a time the Saxons were routed and destroyed in large numbers by the Danes.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, and conquered and oppressed by the Normans. We have not time to enter upon the particulars of each successive accession to the throne of England; but I think, Katie, you can enumerate the English line of kings since the Norman Conquest.

KATE.

Yes, mamma; there have been sovereigns descended from the Houses of Plantagenet, Tudor, Stuart, Orange or Nassau, and that of Hanover or Brunswick.

MRS. LESLIE.

Quite right. Our own beloved Queen is, you know, the sixth sovereign of the House of Brunswick, and has justly endeared herself to every class of her subjects by her many virtues, which alike shed a lustre upon her exalted position, and render her an ornament and example of domestic life. Long may she be spared to reign over an intelligent, a prosperous, and a contented people!

HERBERT.

Before we separate this morning, mamma, would it not be as well for us to mention the divisions of our country under the Romans and Saxons? Of course we all know how it is divided at the present time; and I believe I remember the kingdoms of the Saxon Heptarchy; but I do not at all know how it was divided by the Romans.

MRS. LESLIE.

The entire country, with the exception of the northern part of Northumberland, was divided by the Romans into four grand provinces, called *Britannia Prima*, *Britannia Secunda*, *Flavia Cæsariensis*, and *Maxima Cæsariensis*. The first of these, *Britannia Prima*, was the earliest of the Roman provinces, and included the whole territory south of the Thames, from Kent to Cornwall. *Britannia Secunda* comprehended the district west of the Severn, the greater part of which now forms the principality of Wales. *Flavia Cæsariensis* comprised the whole of the midland district, and *Maxima Cæsariensis* the region of the north. As we enter upon the consideration of each county as it now is, we will trace out to which of these four old Roman provinces it formerly belonged, as well as in what part of the Saxon Heptarchy it was afterwards included. This at first may appear in some degree dry and uninteresting, and will certainly require considerable research; but, in our investigation of the past condition of our native land, I should wish to go back to its very earliest authenticated history; and as the Roman occupation of Britain, with the arts that people introduced, and the luxury and refinement in which they lived, is daily being brought to light by archæology, I venture to say you will not long find such research either irksome or uninteresting.

KATE.

What is archæology, mamma ?

MRS. LESLIE.

Archæology is a most interesting science relating to the past, and comprises a searching into whatever is ancient in architecture, laws, customs, or indeed any point which serves to make us acquainted with the habits of past generations. It goes back to remote periods of antiquity, throws great light upon history, and even supplies the want of it where it is vague or unsatisfactory. Archæology has been aptly termed "the key which unlocks the buried treasures of past ages." I am glad to say it is a study which is increasingly popular in the present day. In our endeavour to become better acquainted with the past history of our country we shall find the researches of the archæologist of the greatest service.

HERBERT.

An archæologist appears to be only another name for an antiquary.

MRS. LESLIE.

Exactly so ; only I think the archæologists of the present day feel they have a higher mission to fulfil than the mere heaping up of antiquities. The elucidation of history is now their grand aim ; and, regarded in that light, archæology is a noble study every way worthy of a cultivated mind. But we shall frequently have occasion to refer to the discoveries brought to light by this interesting science, and they will give you a better idea of it than anything which I can say on the subject. Now, Herbert, you must give us an account of how our country was divided while under the dominion of the Saxons.

HERBERT.

The southern part of Britain, now called England, was divided into seven kingdoms called the Heptarchy. It included the kingdom of Kent, the kingdom of South Saxons, the kingdom of Northumberland, the kingdom of East Angles, the kingdom of East Saxons, the kingdom of West Saxons, and the kingdom of Mercia.

MRS. LESLIE.

Very good ; these seven kingdoms were united into one under Egbert, the King of the West Saxons, who, in 827, published an edict that the whole should be called *Engleland*, or the land of the Angles.

KATE.

I was going to ask you before, mamma, why the inhabitants of Britain were called Angles ?

MRS. LESLIE.

The Angles were a people of Germany who joined the Saxons in their conquest of Britain ; hence we have the term Anglo-Saxons, by which our forefathers were known.

KATE.

I suppose the next division of England was that which was made by Alfred the Great ?

MRS. LESLIE.

The division of England into shires, although generally ascribed to Alfred, is not well authenticated, for many of them bore their present name a century before his time, while others are not mentioned as distinct counties until long after. Rutland, for instance, was not a county in itself until the reign of John.

KATE.

Why did you say *shire* first, mamma, and *county* after ? Is there any difference between a county and a shire ?

MRS. LESLIE.

Shire is a Saxon word, signifying a *share*, and was applied to a territory governed by an *earl* or *elder* ; at the Norman Conquest the earl was called a count, and the district which was assigned to him a county.

MARION.

I never understood before the distinction between a county and a shire. Oh! I am sure our conversations will be most interesting as well as instructive.

MRS. LESLIE.

You must each endeavour to make them so, by acquiring as much information as possible, relative to the county under consideration in the interval between our weekly conversations. You have all some books of reference, and I have no doubt your papa will allow you to have any from his library that will aid you in your investigations. But Willie must tell us, now, how England is divided at the present time.

WILLIE.

England is divided into forty counties, called :

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Northumberland. | 21. Rutland. |
| 2. Cumberland. | 22. Leicestershire. |
| 3. Westmoreland. | 23. Nottinghamshire. |
| 4. Durham. | 24. Lincolnshire. |
| 5. Yorkshire. | 25. Norfolk. |
| 6. Lancashire. | 26. Suffolk. |
| 7. Cheshire. | 27. Cambridgeshire. |
| 8. Derbyshire. | 28. Hertfordshire. |
| 9. Staffordshire. | 29. Essex. |
| 10. Warwickshire. | 30. Middlesex. |
| 11. Worcestershire. | 31. Kent. |
| 12. Shropshire. | 32. Sussex. |
| 13. Herefordshire. | 33. Surrey. |
| 14. Monmouthshire. | 34. Hampshire. |
| 15. Gloucestershire. | 35. Berkshire. |
| 16. Oxfordshire. | 36. Wiltshire. |
| 17. Buckinghamshire. | 37. Dorsetshire. |
| 18. Bedfordshire. | 38. Somersetshire. |
| 19. Huntingdonshire. | 39. Devonshire. |
| 20. Northamptonshire. | 40. Cornwall. |

MRS. LESLIE.

Well done ! Willie. We must now, my dear children, conclude these introductory observations. Our first conversation on the counties of England, we will, if God permit, commence on New Year's Day, and I trust we shall find our new occupation not only pleasing, but profitable.

CONVERSATION I.



NORTHUMBERLAND.

SUBJECTS:—Introduction.—Situation of Northumberland.—Early Inhabitants. — Invasion by Romans.—Picts' Wall. — Kingdom under Saxons. — Origin of Name. — Invasion by Danes. — Size, general Features, and Productions. — Newcastle a Roman Station. — Name during Possession by Saxons. — Origin of Name, Newcastle. — Remains of ancient Castle. — Historical Recollections.—Improvement in Appearance of Town. — Richard Grainger, and other celebrated Men. — Coal Mines. — First Introduction of Coal to London. — Produce of Coal from the Collieries of Northumberland and Durham in 1856. — Probable Duration of Northern Coal Field. — Dangers to which Colliers are exposed. — Sir Humphry Davy's Safety Lamp. — Iron, Lead, and Silver Produce. — Tynemouth. — Ancient Priory. — North Shields. — Industrial Pursuits. — Hexham. — Margaret of Anjou.—Wars of the Roses. — England as it was and is. — Glass first used in England. — Civilisation now and then. — Hexham Abbey. — Monks, Masons, and Architects of olden Time. — Berwick-upon-Tweed. — Countess of Buchan. — William Wallace.—Flodden Field.—Salmon Fishery. — Alnwick.—Border Wars. — Alnwick Castle. — Ruins of ancient Castles. — Warkworth Hermitage. — Legend.

“A HAPPY new year, dear mamma! A happy new year!” was the exclamation which greeted Mrs. Leslie as she entered the breakfast-room, where her children were already seated on the morning of the 1st of January, 1858.

The affectionate salutation had scarcely been returned, when Willie, map in hand, came to his mother's side, and said, “The wished-for morning is come at last, mamma! It is Northumberland, you know, that we are to talk about this morning.”

"Stop, Willie! stop! not so fast," interrupted Herbert; "you know we have animal, as well as mental wants," said he, pointing to the well-spread table. "You can surely wait till after breakfast for our new and interesting occupation."

"And spiritual necessities, as well as animal and mental, my dear children," added Mr. Leslie, who entered at that moment; then taking up the Bible, which always formed an accompaniment to the morning's meal, he selected for their meditation the latter part of the 4th chapter of the Epistle of St. James, as peculiarly appropriate to their projected undertaking.

Breakfast was soon concluded, and after a few necessary domestic avocations, Mrs. Leslie took her seat in the midst of her expectant children. "I shall hope, my dear children," she said, "not only to give, but to receive information, from this new plan for improvement. The more I have thought of it, the more I am inclined to believe it will be a useful occupation, because I am convinced there is nothing like searching for information upon a given subject in order to obtain it; and by associating persons with places, a lasting impresssion is, I think, likely to be made upon the mind. A judicious writer has observed, that 'The most amusing and instructive way of teaching geography is, by associating it with historical and biographical recollections.' And now let us hear, Willie, what you can tell us of Northumberland?"

WILLIE.

It is the most northerly county of England, mamma. Its capital is Newcastle, which is celebrated for coals and salmon. My geography says it is a maritime county. Will you tell me what maritime means?

MRS. LESLIE.

Katie can tell you that.

KATE.

It is called a maritime county because it is washed by the sea. The word is derived from *mare*, the Latin for sea. The whole of the eastern coast of Northumberland is washed by the North Sea or German Ocean.

MARION.

Northumberland is bounded on the north by the river Tweed ; on the east by the North Sea or German Ocean ; on the south by Durham and Cumberland ; and on the west by Cumberland and Scotland.

WILLIE.

The chief rivers of Northumberland are the Tyne, the Tweed, and the Coquet.

HERBERT.

The earliest account we have of Northumberland is, that it was inhabited by two British tribes, called Otadeni and Gadeni. It does not appear to have been invaded by the Romans, until about the year 78, when Agricola was governor of Britain. The original inhabitants were very difficult to subdue, and to secure the conquests he made, Agricola erected a line of forts, extending from the German Ocean to Solway Frith.

KATE.

Do you mean the Picts' Wall, Herbert ?

HERBERT.

No, Katie ; but the Picts' Wall afterwards occupied nearly the same position as Agricola's line of forts. If you remember, the Picts' Wall was erected about the year 120, by the Roman Emperor Adrian.

MARION.

I thought the Emperor Severus built that wall.

MRS. LESLIE.

He rebuilt it, my dear. The first wall was built of earth by Adrian, but that proved totally ineffectual to resist the incursions of the barbarous people from the North. A wall was afterwards built of stone by Severus, eight feet thick and twelve high, and having turrets at every mile, which were garrisoned ; but even this proved insufficient to repel the frequent attacks of the northern tribes. Some portions of this remarkable work of antiquity still remain, though its site is now nearly occupied by the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway.

MARION.

I think a great many Roman antiquities have been discovered in this county.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; but the most remarkable monument of Roman power is the wall already mentioned. The southern part of Northumberland, I find, was included in the Old Roman province called *Maxima Caesariensis*, but the greater portion of the county belonged to *Valentia*, in which division the southern part of Scotland was also comprehended.

KATE.

Of course this county was included in the kingdom of Northumberland under the Saxons.

MRS. LESLIE.

It was, as well as all the other counties north of the Humber; hence the name, North-Humber-land; the inhabitants being called North-Humbrians. This county, you perceive, is the only one of that ancient kingdom which still retains its original Saxon name. It suffered severely from the invasion of the Danes, who made a complete conquest of it, and firmly established themselves in it. But we must not linger upon its early history. Perhaps you can give us some account of the general features of the county?

KATE.

Northumberland is a rugged and hilly district, about seventy miles long, and forty broad. The Cheviot hills, which separate it from Scotland, are the highest in the county. Its chief mineral production is coal, which abounds especially in the neighbourhood of Newcastle-upon-Tyne; but it has also mines of iron, lead, and silver.

MRS. LESLIE.

You must not suppose, Katie, that there are separate and distinct mines of silver in England. That valuable metal, it is true, is found to some extent in the lead ores of the United Kingdom, and, when separated from the inferior metal, amounts to the total

annual value of upwards of 150,000*l.*; but it is produced in very small quantities in comparison to the amount of lead in which it is found.

HERBERT.

Do you know the proportion in which it is produced, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

It varies considerably in different localities. In Devonshire, the lead yields a larger proportion of silver than that of any other British county, and averages about forty ounces of silver in each ton of lead; while in Cumberland, the average proportion is nine ounces of silver to a ton of lead. Before we turn our attention to the great coal field of Northumberland and Durham, we had better notice Newcastle; but our observations must be very brief, as our time will be much occupied this morning with the mines from which it derives its principal importance.

MARION.

I find that the place where Newcastle now stands was formerly occupied by a Roman military station, called Pons Ælii, and that the Emperor Adrian built a bridge over the river Tyne, from which the surrounding town originated. Many Roman coins, and other antiquities, have been discovered in the neighbourhood, and are deposited in the Museum at Newcastle, which contains the largest collection of Roman remains in England, being enriched with the antiquities of the whole northern district.

HERBERT.

After the Romans had left this country, the place came into the possession of the Saxons, and, on their conversion to Christianity, it was called Moncaster, or Monkchester, from the number of monks that resided there.

KATE.

Then when did it receive the name of Newcastle?

HERBERT.

In the reign of William the Conqueror, whose eldest son, Robert Curthose, erected a castle here, from which the present town derived the name of New-Castle.

KATE.

Are there any remains of that ancient castle?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, my dear, some very considerable ones. The keep is still a massive and solid structure; and, although it has existed upwards of eight hundred years, much of the masonry appears firm enough to stand some centuries longer.

MARION.

I have not met with many interesting historical events in connection with this town, mamma.

MRS. LESLIE.

No; the most important related to the border wars, in which England and Scotland were continually engaged during the time they were distinct kingdoms. In the reign of Edward the First, Newcastle was burnt by the Scots; and, in the reign of Edward the Third, it was attacked by David Bruce, but without success. During the civil wars of Charles the First, the town sustained a siege, and was obliged to surrender to the Scots, who were in alliance with the parliamentarians. But what can you tell us, Katie, of the present condition of Newcastle-upon-Tyne?

KATE.

It is a flourishing commercial port, containing nearly eighty-eight thousand inhabitants. It was made a county of itself by Henry the Sixth, and has ever since retained many distinct privileges. I believe Newcastle has greatly improved in appearance during the present century.

MRS. LESLIE.

It has, and principally through the skill and enterprise of Richard Grainger, a native of this town; who, by his own industry and perseverance, rose from an humble position in life to that of a public benefactor. The vast improvements which he effected in the course of a few years in the architecture and extension of the

streets of this now magnificent town are, I believe, almost, if not quite, without a parallel in ancient or modern times.

MARION.

Newcastle was the birth-place of the celebrated Lord Eldon the Chancellor of England, and Mark Akenside, the poet. The neighbourhood of Newcastle also gave birth to George and Robert Stephenson, the celebrated engineers.

MRS. LESLIE.

And now, Herbert, what information can you give us respecting the coal mines ?

HERBERT.

They are of immense extent, but I find that those who have inquired into the subject are very divided in opinion as to the real magnitude ; yet it is generally thought that the coal field of Northumberland and Durham contains at least eight hundred square miles of coal strata. The deepest pit in Northumberland is above one thousand eight hundred feet below the surface of the earth, while in some parts of Durham the coal lies so near the surface, as to render the laborious and perilous operation of mining almost unnecessary.

KATE.

Do you know, Herbert, when coal was first commonly used as fuel ?

HERBERT.

I find that a charter was granted in 1239 by Henry the Third giving the citizens of Newcastle permission to dig for coal, which I believe, is the first mention made in history of that valuable commodity, but I do not think it was commonly used for fuel some centuries after.

MRS. LESLIE.

I lately read an amusing account of the introduction of coal to London, in the reign of Edward the First, by some blacksmiths and brewers, for the purposes of trade, which was the only object to which it was at first applied.

WILLIE.

How very glad the people must have been to have had such a useful thing brought to their city; because, I dare say, they hoped they would soon be able to burn it in their houses!

MRS. LESLIE.

So we should naturally think, Willie; but, on the contrary, the good citizens of London were very angry at its introduction. In the first place, they found it interfere with the sale of wood for fuel, large quantities of which were then growing about the city. But the greatest objection of all was the smoke; for as the houses were mostly whitewashed at that time, they dreaded the effect of smoke upon them, thought it would be impossible ever to be clean, and actually petitioned the king to prohibit the use of such a "pestilential evil."

KATE.

Well! I must say, mamma, when we think of the colour of some of the buildings in London, that the apprehensions of the people were not without foundation. But did the king agree to their request?

MRS. LESLIE.

It appears that his majesty, seeing the reasonable nature of the petition, and admiring the good sense and love of cleanliness of his subjects, issued a proclamation, commanding the consumption of coal immediately to cease.

MARION.

I suppose, that afterwards he, or some sovereign wiser than he, retracted the prohibition, as coal has so long been an article of general and daily use?

MRS. LESLIE.

For a long time much altercation and difficulty ensued; the blacksmiths, brewers, and some other artisans, who had found great benefit from the use of coal, refused to give it up, and attempted to use it clandestinely; but the tell-tale smoke revealed their evil practices, and their prejudiced fellow-citizens petitioned parliament, which in its turn petitioned the king against it. Pains

and penalties succeeded; furnaces and chimneys were destroyed; but it was all of no avail. The persevering and thrifty blacksmiths and brewers, having found an article well adapted, not only to their own use, but likely greatly to benefit the community at large, determined not to abandon it at the demand of ignorance and prejudice; and in course of time, coal was found to be not only a harmless, but a most valuable commodity. From that period to the present time, its consumption has increasingly advanced, and during the last twenty or thirty years, it has become of the very first importance in connection with our railway traffic, the manufacture of gas, and the smelting of metals.

MARION.

It seems perfectly astonishing how our ancestors ever did without such a useful article! Have you any idea, mamma, how much coal is produced annually from the mines of Great Britain?

MRS. LESLIE.

I find from Mr. Hunt's "Mining Records" for 1856, that the total produce in that year was upwards of 66,000,000 tons; of which upwards of 15,000,000 tons were produced from the collieries of Northumberland and Durham.

MARION.

I should think at that rate some of our descendants will be reduced to the necessity of doing as the good citizens of London did before the innovation of the refractory blacksmiths and brewers. For, however extensive the mines may be, I suppose they are not inexhaustible.

HERBERT.

There is no fear, Marion, of such an alternative, for some generations, at all events. I read yesterday that Northumberland and Durham will supply coal at the present rate of consumption for seventeen centuries at least.

MRS. LESLIE.

Mr. Hugh Taylor, to whose calculations you refer, has given a

period so much longer than other calculators, that his opinion must be received with caution. Some who have investigated the subject, have come to the conclusion that the great northern coal field will be exhausted in 500 years; but even if such should be the case, there is no doubt but that the other coal districts of Great Britain would still yield an abundant supply.

KATE.

I suppose coal mining is a very dangerous occupation?

MRS. LESLIE.

You are right. Fearful indeed are the perils to which the poor colliers are exposed in procuring for us the comfort of a cheerful fire-side. The breaking in of water, which frequently attends the sinking of a shaft, the loss of life or limb by the falling of immense blocks of coal, entanglements of machinery, and accidents connected with ascending and descending the shaft, are disasters of almost every-day occurrence; but the most fearful of all the hazards to which a collier is liable, is the explosion of a peculiar kind of gas called fire-damp. Where that exists, a single candle, inadvertently applied, has been known to ignite a whole mine, and suddenly destroy a host of miners.

HERBERT.

Sir Humphry Davy, I think, invented a safety-lamp by which the necessity for a naked light was obviated.

MRS. LESLIE.

He did, and an inestimable blessing it has proved to the poor pit-men, the accidents from fire-damp having of late years been much fewer than formerly. But we might go on talking of the coal mines until our time for conversation had expired.

MARION.

I believe the iron mines of Northumberland and Durham are not so abundant as those of some other counties?

MRS. LESLIE.

You are correct. The united produce of Northumberland and Durham, in 1856, was but 495,500 tons of iron ore, a comparatively small proportion compared with that of some of the iron producing districts.

HERBERT.

I have seen it stated that it requires on an average three tons of iron ore to make one ton of pig or manufactured iron; therefore, the iron works of the Northumberland and Durham district must be supplied from some other localities, as the quantity of pig-iron they produced in 1856 amounted to 331,370 tons.

MRS. LESLIE.

They are principally supplied from the Cleveland district in the North Riding of Yorkshire, but Cumberland and Scotland also send them ores to be converted into manufactured iron.

MARION.

Do you know the produce of the lead mines of Northumberland and Durham, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

The quantity of lead ore raised in 1856, was 24,125 tons 7 cwt., which yielded 17,674 tons 11 cwt. of lead, and 79,924 oz. of silver. Perhaps Willie can now tell us the names of some of the celebrated towns of Northumberland.

WILLIE.

Yes, mamma. There are Tynemouth, and Hexham upon the river Tyne, and Berwick-upon-Tweed.

MRS. LESLIE.

Tynemouth, as its name imports, is situated at the mouth of the river Tyne. It is a handsome, well built town, and is much resorted to by visitors during the bathing season. The ruins of an ancient priory are in a very tolerable state of preservation. Some fine old arches, and foundations of pillars, which were buried in the earth probably for centuries, have lately been brought to light by

excavation, and the ruin altogether is a most interesting relic of olden time. It has of late years been used as a magazine for military stores.

WILLIE.

Is Tynemouth a large place, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, Willie. It contains upwards of 30,000 inhabitants.

MARION.

North Shields, is a flourishing sea-port town on the north bank of the Tyne. It has greatly risen in modern times, and has a population of about 9000. Its principal trade consists in the exportation of coals; but there are also manufactories of chains, cables, anchors, and salt and alkali works. Ship-building is also carried on to a considerable extent in the neighbourhood.

HERBERT.

Hexham is a place of great antiquity; and supposed by some antiquaries to have been the site of a Roman station. It was the seat of a bishopric during the Saxon Heptarchy; and greatly celebrated for its beautiful abbey church, which was the fifth stone church erected in England.

KATE.

It was at Hexham that Margaret of Anjou was totally defeated in one of those dreadful battles between the Yorkists and Lancastrians.

MRS. LESLIE.

Perhaps Herbert can relate the circumstances which led Margaret to exchange the quietude of domestic life for a scene of warfare.

HERBERT.

Her husband, Henry the Sixth, was of such an inactive disposition, that he would have been totally unfit to govern the kingdom, even if it had been in a state of peace, which, however, was far from being the case. The Duke of York asserting his claim

to the crown, as being the direct heir of Edward the Third, and thus endeavouring to set aside the claim of the Prince of Wales, the reigning king's only child; the poor weak-minded king would quietly have submitted, but Margaret, who was of an intrepid and masculine spirit, would not see her son deprived of his birthright without an effort to retain it, and herself headed an army against the Yorkists; but after a few comparatively insignificant victories, she was finally defeated at Hexham, A.D. 1464.

MARION.

What a sad condition England must have been in during the time of those dreadful civil wars!

MRS. LESLIE.

It was indeed! For five-and-twenty years the country was deluged with blood, and the poor Lancastrians were reduced to the most pitiable state; and, in fact, all but exterminated; forty thousand having been slain in one battle. Perhaps in no respect does England, as it is, contrast more favourably with England as it was, than in the feeling of loyalty and devotion which is universally manifested towards our beloved sovereign. But now, Katie, have you anything to tell us relative to Hexham?

KATE.

It is a pleasant town situated on a hill, near the south bank of the Tyne, containing nearly five thousand inhabitants. I have read that the first glass that was ever seen in England, was in the windows of Hexham Abbey.

WILLIE.

Where did it come from, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

The English learned the art of making it from some Frenchmen who settled in this country towards the end of the seventh century, but it was not used even in king's palaces for a very long time after; and at first there was only a glazed window here and there, the other windows having wooden lattices or shutters.

WILLIE.

What strange looking palaces they must have been in those days! And now every poor person's cottage has glass windows.

MRS. LESLIE.

There is, indeed, a vast difference between our comforts and habits now and those of olden times. What would you think, Willie, of seeing a party of lords and ladies sitting down to dinner, while the cook entered with the meat upon the spit, to be carried round for each guest to cut off a piece with his knife, and then with his fingers to take it up, and eat it? You may well look surprised, my dear; but such was the custom, even in the fifteenth century. But to return to Hexham Abbey. Do you know, Katie, who were the masons and architects in those days?

KATE.

No, indeed, mamma.

MRS. LESLIE.

The monks. Manual labour was much enjoined by Benedict, the founder of the first monastic order. Two monks in particular, Bennet and Wilfred, are mentioned by early historians as possessing much architectural ability; the monastery of Hexham was built by the latter, and was the most celebrated of all his works. Eddius, a high authority in such matters, after two journeys to Rome, boldly declared "That there existed not on this side the Alps a church to be compared with that of Hexham."

In 875 this beautiful structure was partially burnt by the Danes, who ransacked the town and massacred great numbers of the people. It also suffered severely from the Scots in the reign of Edward the First. The old priory church is, however, still regarded as the glory and pride of Hexham. Several portions of the original building still exist. Now, Willie, can you mention the most northerly town of England?

WILLIE.

Berwick-upon-Tweed.

HERBERT.

I believe Berwick-upon-Tweed has a sort of independent position both with regard to England and Scotland.

MRS. LESLIE.

You are right. Edward the First granted certain privileges and immunities to the town, which were confirmed and extended by James the First of England and Sixth of Scotland on the union of the two kingdoms. Since that period it has been governed by its own officers, who possess the highest power in civil and criminal cases. The English judges of assize have no jurisdiction in this town, which is also independent of the laws of Scotland.

MARION.

Berwick-upon-Tweed was a place of considerable note in Scottish history, was it not, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; it was several times taken and retaken by the English and Scots during the border wars. Some of the recollections associated with it give us a very unfavourable impression of the humanity of our countrymen at the period referred to. It was in one of the towers of Berwick Castle that the unhappy Countess of Buchan was shut up for seven years in a wooden cage, so constructed as to leave her exposed to the gaze of the passers by; while she was forbidden to speak to any one but the attendant who supplied her with the food allowed her.

WILLIE.

Oh, dear mamma, what a shocking story! What had the poor lady done, that she was punished so severely?

MRS. LESLIE.

You will better understand the act for which she suffered when you are acquainted with Scottish history. At present I can only tell you, that our King Edward the First, who wanted to be king of Scotland as well, was very angry with her for placing the crown upon the head of Robert Bruce, his rival. He therefore had her punished in the dreadful manner I have related.

HERBERT.

What a barbarous age that was! Not long before the poor countess was confined in her wooden cage, the Scottish hero, William Wallace, who had been betrayed by his servant into Edward's hands, was tried and condemned for treason; when the vindictive king, not satisfied with having him put to death with the most excruciating tortures, actually had his head severed from his body, and his body divided and exposed to view in different parts of England and Scotland. Part of his body was exposed on Berwick Bridge.

MRS. LESLIE.

That was one of the atrocities I alluded to, Herbert. Though this country was then professedly Christian, we have, alas! ample testimony that there was very little of the spirit of that holy religion which teaches men to love their enemies.

MARION.

About twelve miles south of Berwick, at the foot of the Cheviot Hills, is the celebrated Flodden Field, where James the Fourth of Scotland was defeated in his attempt to invade England in 1513; when himself and the greater part of his nobility were slain.

KATE.

Is not Berwick, now, chiefly celebrated for its salmon fishery?

MRS. LESLIE.

It is. I have heard of upwards of 10,000 salmon being offered for sale, at one time, in Berwick market.

WILLIE.

Why, mamma, I should think all the people of Berwick were fishermen.

MRS. LESLIE.

No, my dear, for Berwick contains more than 10,000 inhabitants, who, of course, are engaged in different occupations; fishing, however, is the chief employment of the poorer classes.

HERBERT.

Alnwick, a town with a population of 7000, was very celebrated in the border wars. Malcolm the Third, of Scotland, and his son Edward, lost their lives at the memorable siege of Alnwick; and William of Scotland, surnamed the Lion, was taken prisoner.

You know, of course, Katie, what gave rise to the frequent dissensions and bloodshed which so unhappily prevailed between England and Scotland during the period of their early history.

KATE.

The two countries were not then, as now, united under one sovereign, but were distinct kingdoms, and were frequently at war with each other, owing to the invasion, first by one nation and then the other, of its neighbour's territories. England and Scotland were first united under one sovereign, in the reign of James the Sixth of Scotland and First of England, in the year 1603.

MRS. LESLIE.

You are right. But to return for a moment to Alnwick. I am informed that the castle, which for several centuries was a fortress of prodigious strength, has lately undergone complete restoration. The chapel is said to be extremely beautiful, the walls being painted similar to those in the celebrated cathedral of Milan.

MARION.

Were there not formerly an immense number of castles in Northumberland?

MRS. LESLIE.

Castles and towers were erected in every part of the country, the border warfare rendering it necessary for nearly every habitation to be a fortress. Of the ancient castles many ruins still exist; the principal of which are those of Warkworth, Prudhoe, and Bamborough; the latter is situated on the northern coast, and is now used as a place of refuge for shipwrecked seamen.

KATE.

Can you tell us anything about Warkworth Hermitage, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

It is a lovely sequestered spot, on the bank of the truly picturesque river Coquet. The hermitage, which is hewn out of a freestone rock, and nearly embosomed in trees, is generally approached in a boat from the opposite bank. The chapel is the most interesting portion of the remains. Over the little vestibule which leads to it are some traces of a Latin inscription, which rendered into English, would be, "My tears have been my meat night and day." In a niche in one of the walls of the chapel is a figure in a kneeling posture, with one hand placed upon the bosom, as if overwhelmed with grief.

MARION.

Is there not a legend connected with the place, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Tradition says that its constructor, Bertram, a young man of family and fortune, in order to make atonement for the murder of his brother, and to ease a guilty conscience, there condemned himself to a life of penance, and seclusion from the world; thinking, poor man, by such means to expiate his crime. I trust, my dear children, you are all convinced that there is but one atonement for sin; even that made by our blessed Saviour in the sacrifice of himself upon the cross; and that you believe that "there is none other name under heaven, given amongst men, whereby we can be saved." But other occupations now require our attention. We have mentioned most of the subjects of interest connected with Northumberland; I trust, next week you will be prepared with as goodly an amount of information relative to Cumberland; and if we thus go on, gathering and dispensing useful knowledge, from week to week, I think our conversations on our native land will be alike interesting and highly profitable.

CONVERSATION II.



CUMBERLAND.

SUBJECTS :—Boundary. — Size. — Early Inhabitants. — Derivation of Name. — Lakes. — Poet Southey. — Borrowdale. — Mine of Plumbago. — Mineral Produce. — Lakes. — Mountains. — Waterfalls. — Rivers. — Carlisle : its great Antiquity. — William Camden. — Carlisle Castle. — Cathedral. — First Consecration of Burial-Grounds. — Manufactures. — Whitehaven. — Coal and Iron Mines. — Manifestation of Divine Wisdom and Benevolence. — Egremont Castle. — Ancient Legend. — Cockermouth. — Workington. — Mary, Queen of Scots. — Imprisonment by Queen Elizabeth. — Political Motives. — Penrith. — Druidical Remains. — Fortified Towers in Churches. — Present Condition of England.

A SUMMONS was unnecessary in order to assemble the young students in their mother's cheerful morning room, on the same day in the following week as that on which the conversation took place which we have related in the previous chapter.

A blazing fire shed a genial glow over the apartment, and with the rich crimson drapery of the windows formed a pleasing contrast to the scene without, as the snow was falling heavily.

Books and atlases were spread upon the table, around which her children were already seated, when Mrs. Leslie took her place amongst them. "It is quite unnecessary," she observed, "for me to tell you, my dear children, that Cumberland is to form the subject of this morning's conversation, as I know your attention has been directed to it. So, Katie, you may as well at once mention the boundaries and size of the county."

KATE.

Cumberland is bounded on the north by Scotland and part of Northumberland; on the east by Northumberland, Durham, and Westmoreland; on the south by Westmoreland and Lancashire; and on the west by the Irish Sea and Solway Frith. The greatest length of the county is about seventy-five miles, and its greatest breadth thirty-four miles.

HERBERT.

The earliest inhabitants of whom we have any account were the Brigantes, a bold and warlike people of Celtic origin, who were conquered by the Romans about the year 121, when the Picts' Wall was being built. At a very early period the inhabitants were called Cumbri, from which, it is supposed, the name Cumberland was derived.

MRS. LESLIE.

Such is the generally received opinion; but an ancient and learned author argues, with some show of reason, that the name came from the word *encumber*, in allusion to the mountains and lakes which encumber this county and make it difficult for travellers to pass. I think this a very probable derivation, as the physical features of a place frequently gave rise to its name, which you will find to be the case as we proceed with our investigations.

KATE.

Yes, mamma; just like Northumberland being so named because it was north of the Humber.

MARION.

Under the Romans the greater part of Cumberland was included in the province called *Maxima Cæsariensis*, and during the Saxon Heptarchy it formed part of the kingdom of Northumberland.

MRS. LESLIE.

Very good. Herbert will now tell us for what this county is chiefly celebrated.

HERBERT.

For its beautiful lakes and magnificent mountain scenery, which attract tourists from all parts of the kingdom during the summer months. The longest and deepest lake is Ulleswater, near Penrith. It is 9 miles long and 210 feet deep. The loftiest mountain is Scaw Fell, near Eskdale, and is 3166 feet high. I think the poet Southey lived somewhere in the vicinity of the lakes.

MRS. LESLIE.

Greta Hall, Keswick, was the poet's home for forty years. In that romantic retreat, surrounded by the lofty Skiddaw, the lovely lake of Derwentwater, and Borrowdale's secluded glen, we find him portraying, in his own graphic style, the beauties of Nature by which he was surrounded; beauties which few knew better how to appreciate or depict.

MARION.

Borrowdale is not only celebrated for its picturesque beauty, but also for its mine of plumbago, or black lead for pencils, which is considered the finest in the world. A few days ago I read an account relating to that mine, in which it was stated that at one time the value of the plumbago was so little known that the shepherds of the mountains used it freely to mark their sheep; but that afterwards, when its worth was discovered, the proprietors of the mine had houses erected at its entrance, where the workmen were obliged to change their clothes, under inspection, lest they should be tempted to carry away any of the precious stuff in their pockets.

KATE.

They had not a very high opinion of the honesty of the miners, it appears.

MRS. LESLIE.

It does, indeed, Katie; and I think it reflects very unfavourably upon the good feeling of the proprietors themselves, because we should always presume a person to be honest until he has shown himself to be the contrary; in which case it would be much better

to dismiss him from our service rather than to implicate the innocent with the guilty, and subject honest and upright characters to such an indignity as that Marion has related.

KATE.

Is the mine at Borrowdale productive now, mamma ?

MRS. LESLIE.

It has not been worked for the last five or six years, although the fact is not generally known to visitors to Keswick, who are told that the pencil works are still supplied from it. This, in a measure, is correct, as previously to its abandonment the proprietors obtained from it about 20,000*l.* worth of plumbago, which they have been bringing into the market in small quantities, with a view, no doubt, to keeping up the price. About three years ago the mine was inspected, in order to ascertain whether it would remunerate the labour of working ; but as the report was far from satisfactory, no further efforts have hitherto been made. The stock of plumbago on hand, however, being nearly exhausted, I am informed that a fresh trial is about to be made, but with what result is of course at present uncertain.

KATE.

If the mine at Borrowdale should fail, where are we to get the black lead for our pencils from, mamma ?

MRS. LESLIE.

We have long obtained large supplies from the East Indies, British North America, and other countries. Some of the lead brought from the island of Ceylon is little inferior to that of Borrowdale.

MARION.

Of course there must be a great difference in the quality of the lead, as some pencils are so greatly inferior to others.

MRS. LESLIE.

Exactly so ; and in the manufacture of the cheaper sorts the

difference in quality is made still greater by sulphuret of antimony being mixed with the plumbago to a great extent.

HERBERT.

The principal wealth of Cumberland consists of its mineral productions. It has mines of coal, lead, iron, copper, and zinc.

MRS. LESLIE.

In 1856 its mines yielded 913,891 tons of coal, nearly 270,000 tons of iron ore, 5,321 tons of lead, 51,932 oz. of silver, 3,900 tons of copper ore, and 378 tons of zinc. Now, Willie, what can you tell us about Cumberland?

WILLIE.

There are nine large lakes, mamma; for I counted them in a map Herbert was looking at yesterday. I cannot remember all their names, for some were very difficult; but I am certain they have not all been mentioned.

MRS. LESLIE.

I have no doubt Herbert can mention their names, although some are rather puzzling.

HERBERT.

I will try, mamma: Ulleswater, Thirlmere, Derwentwater, Bassenthwaite, Buttermere, Crummockwater, Loweswater, Ennerdale, and Wastwater. They vary in length from one to nine miles, and are all celebrated for the beauty of their scenery. There are also several smaller lakes called tarns, which abound in various kinds of fish.

MRS. LESLIE.

Well done, Herbert! And now, Marion, let us see whether your memory is as good respecting the names of the principal mountains.

MARION.

I am afraid I shall not remember all of them; but there are

Scaw Fell, Helvellyn, Skiddaw, Saddleback, Grassmere Fell, High Pike, and Black Comb.

MRS. LESLIE.

Very well, Marion; I dare say you think the names of some of these lofty mountains not much calculated to impress one with the idea of the picturesque.

MARION.

Indeed I do, mamma.

MRS. LESLIE.

Nevertheless, I expect, if ever you should make the tour of this district, you will be greatly delighted with the scenery, and inclined to say with Shakespeare, "What's in a name?" There are some beautiful waterfalls in the vicinity, which give a charming variety to the lovely landscape; and yet their names give one an impression of anything rather than the romantic and beautiful. For instance, Borrow Cascade, two miles from Keswick, Sour Milk Force, near Buttermere, and Scale Force, also near Buttermere. The last I have mentioned is the most elevated, and its fall of water is 190 feet. Can you tell us what are the principal rivers, Willie? And also the name of the county town?

WILLIE.

The rivers are, the Eden, Duddon, Derwent, Caldew, and Esk. The name of the county town is Carlisle, which is situated just where the rivers Eden and Caldew meet.

KATE.

I suppose Carlisle is a very ancient city, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Its foundation appears to be involved in obscurity. Camden, however, says, "that this city flourished in the time of the Romans does plainly enough appear, both from the several evidences of antiquity they now and then dig up, and from the frequent mention made of it by Roman authors." He identifies it with the Luguwallum of Antoninus, a name which he considers simply means a fort upon the wall (Picts' Wall) or vallum.

WILLIE.

Who is Camden, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

William Camden was a learned antiquary, who lived in the reign of James the First. He devoted much time and labour to the early history of Britain. We shall find his researches of great use to us in our future conversations.

HERBERT.

Carlisle, or "bonny Carlisle," as it used to be called in border song, experienced many vicissitudes during the ravages of the Picts and Scots, (as, indeed, all the northern cities of England appear to have done,) in a greater or less degree. Its venerable castle, though now regarded chiefly as a relic of antiquity, was once a continued scene of warfare.

MARION.

It was in Carlisle Castle that poor Mary Stuart was kept a prisoner by Elizabeth after her removal from Workington.

MRS. LESLIE.

You are right, Marion. Can either of you tell me to whom the foundation of the castle is attributed?

HERBERT.

To William Rufus, who, we are informed by Pennant, restored the city after it had lain in ruins 200 years, to which state it had been reduced by the Danes in the year 875.

MRS. LESLIE.

Carlisle suffered severely during the civil wars of Charles the First, when a considerable part of the cathedral was destroyed by the parliamentary army, in order to erect guard-houses and batteries. The fragment of the nave which remained, together with the aisles, has long been separated from the other parts, and

used as the parish church. The entire fabric, however, had been in a very dilapidated state for several years, and was completely restored in 1856, at a cost of 15,000*l*.

HERBERT.

Have I not heard that the first consecrated burial-ground, or churchyard as we call it, was adjoining the Cathedral of Carlisle?

MRS. LESLIE.

I really cannot tell you, Herbert, whether such was the fact: but the practice of consecrating ground belonging to churches for the burial of the dead, was introduced from Rome by Cuthbert, Archbishop of Canterbury, about the year 750.

WILLIE.

Is Carlisle a pleasant city, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, it is a fine noble-looking place, and is surrounded by beautiful scenery. It has long been celebrated for the manufacture of ginghams, linen checks, and cotton goods. Its streets and buildings have greatly improved during the present century, and its trade has considerably increased by the formation of the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway. The population of Carlisle is upwards of 26,000.

HERBERT.

What a wonderful change has taken place in the condition of Whitehaven during the last three centuries! In the reign of Elizabeth it is said to have been a small fishing village, containing only six houses; it is now the principal sea-port of Cumberland, and has a population of about 19,000. Manufactures of various kinds are carried on, and an extensive foreign trade maintained. Some vast collieries are worked in the vicinity, and it has also rich mines of iron ore.

MRS. LESLIE.

How wonderfully, my dear children, do we see the wisdom of God manifested in the provision he has made for the comforts and conveniences of man, in every part of creation; and, certainly, not the least so in the treasures contained in the bowels of the earth, and in their adaptation to our use! Thus, where coal is abundant, we find also iron ore; an approximation which greatly increases the utility of these important minerals. Again, geologists tell us, that in the place coal naturally occupies among the strata of the earth, it would be altogether beyond the reach of man; but that earthquakes, and other convulsions of nature, have forced it out of its original place, and thus rendered it available.

MARION.

I was going to ask you, mamma, whether you know anything of Egremont Castle in this neighbourhood. I met the other day with an allusion to it, and I should like to know if there is any historical record in connection with it.

MRS. LESLIE.

None, I believe, but what is simply traditional, and as such scarcely worth relating.

KATE.

Oh! yes, please mamma, do let us hear it. I am so fond of stories in connection with old castles.

MRS. LESLIE.

I am not particularly desirous of presenting such to your mind, my dear, unless founded on good historic evidence; but as the legend in question tends to show how utterly ineffectual are wealth and honours to give satisfaction to a guilty conscience, I will for once indulge you. Tradition relates, that, in the times of the crusades, Sir Eustace de Lucy and his brother Hubert went out together to the holy wars; but that before they left the courtyard of the castle, Sir Eustace blew the horn which hung at the gateway, saying to his brother, "If I fall in Palestine, do thou return

and blow the horn and take possession, that Egremont may not be without a Lucy for its lord." Arrived in Palestine, Hubert, fired by ambition to possess his brother's title and estate, hired ruffians to drown Sir Eustace in the river Jordan; and being assured the deed was done, hastened home to enjoy his dearly purchased honours. But the voice of conscience could not thus be hushed, and like a miserable and guilty wretch, he stole into the castle in the dead of night, not daring to sound the horn, and proclaim himself its lord. In revels and carousals he endeavoured to drown remorse; but one day, in the midst of a banquet, the horn was heard, sounding such a deafening blast as scared the mountain deer from its covert, and echoed back the mighty clamour from the fells. The guilty Hubert, ever a prey to a terror-stricken conscience, felt that none but Eustace could or would so blow the horn, and fled by a postern, while Sir Eustace (for it was really he) entered by the gate. The miserable Hubert at length sought and found forgiveness of his brother, after which he retired to a monastery, and, as was the custom of that unenlightened age, ever after lived a life of penance and seclusion from the world.

WILLIE.

What a shocking story, mamma! It shows what you have so often told us, that the wicked cannot rest.

MRS. LESLIE.

And that was my reason for relating it, Willie. How true is that declaration of the Prophet Isaiah, "There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked." Now let us notice Cocker-mouth.

HERBERT.

Cocker-mouth, which is a market town, with a population of 7000, derives its name from being situated at the mouth of the river Cocker. It is celebrated for its castle, which was dismantled by the parliamentary troops, during the civil wars of Charles the First.

MRS. LESLIE.

The annals of Cockermouth are rather barren of events of interest. Perhaps the historical associations of Workington may be better worth relating.

KATE.

It was in Workington Castle that Mary Queen of Scots found an asylum, when she fled from Scotland to put herself under the protection of Elizabeth, was it not?

MRS. LESLIE.

Workington Hall, my dear, the seat of Sir Henry Curwen, by whom she was entertained until her removal to Carlisle. Do you, Katie, remember the circumstances which caused the unfortunate queen to flee from Scotland?

KATE.

Oh! yes, mamma; it was in consequence of her being so much disliked by her own people; because they thought she was concerned in the murder of her husband, Lord Darnley. Do you really think she was, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

I trust not, my dear, although appearances were certainly very much against her; but late historians have done much to vindicate her memory from the dreadful imputation, and I think we have reason to believe that her errors arose more from indiscretion than from actual crime.

HERBERT.

Whatever were Mary's faults, I have always felt quite indignant against Elizabeth, for her ungenerous and unwomanly treatment of her, after the confidence she put in her protection.

MRS. LESLIE.

You know, Herbert, we have always considered Elizabeth much more clever as a queen, than amiable as a woman; and no doubt political motives very much influenced her in her treatment of

Mary. One great object of her ambition was, you know, to keep Scotland in a state of dependence upon England, which it is probable she thought would be effectually secured by keeping its queen in her own power. Thus, she laid aside all her womanly sympathies with her unfortunate kinswoman (if indeed she felt any), and acted the part only of an implacable and unrelenting sovereign. But, interesting as the subject is, we must leave Mary Stuart for the present; we shall have occasion to speak of her untimely end in our conversation on Northamptonshire. Have you anything to mention relative to the town of Workington?

HERBERT.

It is a seaport town, containing 7000 inhabitants. Its trade consists chiefly in the exportation of coal.

MARION.

Penrith is a place of great antiquity; and long the scene of warfare between the English and the Scots, during which it was twice burnt,—in the reigns of Edward the Third and Richard the Second,—when a fortress was erected to prevent the incursions of the Scots. The ruins still exist. Penrith has a population of nearly 7000. Its trade is principally of a local nature.

HERBERT.

At Kirk Oswald, near Penrith, are the remains of a druidical temple, consisting of a circle of unhewn stones, called Long Meg and her daughters.

WILLIE.

What a funny name! I suppose, mamma, that was one of the places where the Druids used to burn the poor people in the large wicker idols. Oh! what very wicked men they must have been.

MRS. LESLIE.

It is certainly very sad to think about, Willie; but we must remember they had not the Bible to teach them what was right;

and we should be very thankful that we are taught in that holy book the knowledge of the one true God. Before we leave this county, Katie, can you tell me its chief manufactures?

KATE.

Yes, mamma; they consist of sheetings, linen, gingham, thread, cable, and twine.

HERBERT.

I was just going to mention that there were formerly several monasteries in Cumberland, and that in some of the old churches there are remains of strongly fortified towers, which it is thought were used as places of refuge during the scenes of warfare which were so frequent between the English and Scots.

KATE.

What sad times those must have been! I have read that churches were thought such sacred places, that invaders did not dare to enter them; and that I suppose was the reason that they had them fortified as places of defence.

HERBERT.

If you think again, Katie, you will see that your reasoning is not good, or, as Dr. Winstanley would say, it is illogical; because, if invaders would not have dared to assail them, they would have been places of security, without any fortresses at all.

KATE.

To be sure, Herbert! I did not think of that before; but yet I am sure I have read what I related respecting churches.

MRS. LESLIE.

You are quite right, my love; such was the feeling relative to churches in popish times; although, as Herbert said, your reasoning was defective as regards the case in point. The towers Herbert mentioned, I have no doubt, derived the protection they afforded more from the strength of their fortifications than from

any reverential feelings on the part of the ravaging Scots. As you have observed, Katie, sad indeed must have been the state of this country when it was desolated by foreign invasion, or, what was even worse, by civil wars. In reviewing the history of the past, gratitude for our many mercies should, my dear children, be the prevailing feeling of our minds. It is only when we contrast our present national prosperity and happiness with the anarchy and bloodshed of England's early history, that we can fully appreciate the blessings we now enjoy.

Westmoreland is the county to which your attention is to be directed during the ensuing week.

CONVERSATION III.



WESTMORELAND.

SUBJECTS: — Derivation of Name. — Boundaries. — Size. — Ancient Inhabitants. — Conquest by Romans. — Natural Features. — Mineral Produce. — Lakes. — Rivers. — Appleby. — Historical Recollections. — Charles the First. — Kendal: Derivation of Name. — Kendal Weavers. — Woollen Manufacture. — England as it was. — Historical Recollections. — Heverham. — Bishop Watson. — Early Struggles. — Celebrated Works. — Ambleside and other Towns. — Kentmere. — Bernard Gilpin. — Persecution of Protestants. — Ancient Castles. — Secret Chambers.

“I AM afraid Herbert will scarcely like to leave such fun as that, to join our quiet party,” exclaimed Katie Leslie to her sister, as from the windows of the breakfast-room they watched their brother, and some half dozen of his young companions, skating on a large piece of ornamental water at a little distance from the house.

“You need not fear for Herbert,” said Mrs. Leslie, who at that moment entered; “he is always so punctual with his lessons, that I feel sure, much as he appears to enjoy the invigorating sport, he will be with us by the time the clock strikes ten. Dr. Winstanley told me yesterday, that he felt it quite a pleasure to instruct him, he so thoroughly desired information.”

“How skilfully they glide along the ice!” said Marion. “Look, Katie! there is that mischievous Archie Grant just going to snowball Herbert!”

"You may be sure Herbert will repay him with interest," answered Kate, who quite enjoyed the scene; "just let us stay here a few minutes, and we shall see some capital fun, I expect."

"Not this morning, Katie," interposed Mrs. Leslie. "See! Herbert is looking towards the Church. It wants but five minutes to ten, and he is taking off his skates. I felt sure he would not be behind our time of meeting! Well done! my boy," she said, when in a few minutes Herbert entered; "Katie feared you would not like to leave the ice this morning."

"I would not give up the pleasure of these conversations to be the best skater on the lake!" he answered warmly.

A few minutes sufficed to have everything in order; the fire was replenished, some books of reference produced, and a momentary pause was broken by Herbert saying, "Do you know, mamma, from what the word Westmoreland is derived?"

MRS. LESLIE.

It is generally supposed to be derived from the physical character and geographical position of the county — the West-Moorland; but yet its more ancient name, Westmerland, seems to contradict this very natural supposition.

HERBERT.

Its Latin name is Westmeria or Westmaria, which does not seem to agree with the derivation you have mentioned.

MRS. LESLIE.

True, my dear; but, as is frequently the case in regard to the names of places, I think we cannot arrive at any satisfactory conclusion on the subject, so Katie may as well mention the boundaries and size of this county.

KATE.

Westmoreland is bounded on the north by Cumberland and Durham; on the east by Yorkshire; on the south by Lancashire; and on the west by Lancashire and Cumberland. It is about forty miles long and forty broad.

MRS. LESLIE.

This county, like the last we noticed, appears to have been inhabited by the Brigantes, and on its conquest by the Romans, to have formed part of the province called *Maxima Cæsariensis*. It was included in the Saxon kingdom of Northumberland during the Heptarchy. We shall be glad, Herbert, if you will tell us what are the natural features of this county.

HERBERT.

It is very mountainous. The great Pennine chain, of which the principal mountains are, Dun Fell, Dufton Fell, and Eagles' Chain, stretches all along the eastern boundary. The Cumbrian group occupies the western side and the centre, and is separated from the Pennine chain by the valley of the Eden. The mountains of Westmoreland abound in grouse, and are much frequented by sportsmen in the shooting season. The chief natural productions of Westmoreland are slate and limestone, but it also produces some lead and silver. In 1856, 2179 tons of lead, and 23,860 oz. of silver, were procured from the mines of Westmoreland. Its slate is held in the highest estimation, not only in every part of the kingdom, but also on the Continent.

MARION.

I think, mamma, your favourite Wordsworth must speak for *me*. I have here, in his "Scenery of the Lakes," a description of the mountain landscape, which I think you will admire. He says, "The forms of the mountains are endlessly diversified, sweeping easily or boldly in simple majesty, abrupt and precipitous, or soft and elegant. In magnitude and grandeur, they are individually inferior to the most celebrated of those in some other parts of the island; but in the combinations which they make, towering above each other, or lifting themselves in ridges like the waves of a tumultuous sea, and in the beauty of their surfaces and colours, they are surpassed by none."

MRS. LESLIE.

An eloquent and vivid description, my dear, and worthy of its author. On such a scene as that we can imagine Longfellow to be gazing, when he gave expression to that exquisite idea, —

“ See how all about us,
Kneeling like hooded friars, the misty mountains
Receive the benediction of the sun.”

Can you mention the principal lakes of Westmoreland, Katie?

KATE.

The largest lake is Windermere, which is ten miles long, and lies between this county and Lancashire. It is the largest lake in England, and celebrated for its beautiful scenery. Ulleswater, which we spoke of last week, is partly in Westmoreland, and partly in Cumberland. The other lakes are Grassmere, Rydalwater, Elleswater, Haweswater, and Smallwater. There are also several smaller lakes called tarns.

MRS. LESLIE.

Very good. Windermere is not only celebrated for its picturesque beauty, but for its fine char, a fish found only in the waters of this locality. Now, Willie, you may mention the chief rivers of Westmoreland.

WILLIE.

They are the Eden, the Lon, or Lune, and the Kent.

MARION.

The county town is Appleby, which is almost surrounded by the river Eden. This town suffered severely from the incursions of the Scots, who many times assailed it, and burnt it in the year 1388. In 1598 it was visited by a pestilence, and has never entirely regained its former importance. Its population at the last census was only 1256.

KATE.

I shall be very glad when we have done with these northern counties, I am almost tired of hearing about the invasions of the Scots, and I think there is little else of historical interest in connection with this county.

MRS. LESLIE.

We shall certainly be much better off as regards historical associations, when we arrive at the midland and southern counties. At present we must be content with such information as is left on record; we cannot, you know, invent anything to add to the interest of our conversations.

HERBERT.

I met with an anecdote yesterday, showing the loyalty of a native of Appleby to the unfortunate Charles the First. It is related, that during the civil wars, when Charles was greatly perplexed for want of money, Dr. Christopher Potter, of Appleby, commiserating the adversity of his sovereign, sent all his plate to him, saying that he would drink, as Diogenes did, out of the hollow of his hand, before his Majesty should want.

KATE.

Poor Charles! How much I wish the greater number of his subjects had had the loyalty of Dr. Christopher Potter; he would not then have met with such a cruel end.

MRS. LESLIE.

I quite agree with you, my dear, in deploring the fate of that unhappy monarch. It is true he had rendered himself unpopular by some imprudent and despotic measures; and the duplicity which in many instances characterised his public conduct was quite without excuse; but yet his punishment certainly exceeded his offences, and even those who were most opposed to him could not help admiring the spirit of meekness and forgiveness which he uniformly manifested. His dying request to Dr. Juxon, that he

would exhort the young prince, his son, to forgive his murderers, seems like an emanation from the spirit of Him, who in his dying agonies exclaimed, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

HERBERT.

Kendal appears to be a much more important town than Appleby, as it has extensive manufactures of woollen cloth and carpets, and contains nearly 12,000 inhabitants.

MRS. LESLIE.

The accurate name of this town is Kirkby Kendal, which is derived from its being the kirk or church town in the valley of the Kent. The Kendal weavers are spoken of as a prosperous and moral people, and are said to be indebted for their woollen manufactures to a weaver, named John Kempe, who settled there from Flanders, in the reign of Edward the Third. The cloths made there were originally called Kendals, and were so termed down to quite modern times. The Kendal carpets, I remember, attracted universal admiration at the Hyde Park Exhibition, and gained some distinguished prizes.

HERBERT.

When John Kempe set up the first woollen manufactory, I dare say he little thought of the splendid carpets that would arise from it in the course of time. You know, Willie, when he lived it was considered quite a luxury for kings and queens to have the floors of their palaces strewn with clean straw or rushes every morning.

WILLIE.

Those must have been odd times! If kings and queens had straw for their carpets, I wonder what the common people had.

MRS. LESLIE.

Mud or clay floors, my little boy, without any covering at all!

KATE.

I read the other day, that Catherine Parr, the last wife of Henry the Eighth, was born in this county.

MRS. LESLIE,

There are the ruins of a castle at Kendal, where it is said Catherine Parr passed her early years ; but whether she was born there is, I believe, doubtful. She was the daughter, you know, of Sir Thomas Parr.

MARION.

And widow of Lord Latimer. How could she have married that wicked Henry the Eighth ?

MRS. LESLIE.

I dare say she had not much choice in the matter ; and, as his subject, had not the privilege of answering as a lady of a foreign court, whom he asked in marriage, is said to have done. The Duchess Dowager of Milan, the intended successor of Jane Seymour, when informed of the honour intended her, exclaimed, "Alas ! what answer shall I give to the King of England ? I am unfortunate enough to have but one head ; had I two, one of them should be at his highness's service."

HERBERT.

It is related that Henry the Eighth, in one of his visits to Kendal, wore a pair of silk stockings, which he had received from Spain, instead of the cloth ones usually worn by gentlemen at that period, and that from them the Kendal folks got the idea of knitting stockings, which branch of industry was soon carried to such an extent, that three hundred pack-horses were required weekly to carry out the woollen goods that were knitted in Kendal alone.

WILLIE.

Three hundred pack-horses ! Why did they not send them in waggons, which would have been much less expense than keeping so many horses ?

HERBERT.

For a very simple reason, Willie ; because waggons were not at that time in common use.

WILLIE.

What kind of cloth is made at Kendal now, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Kendal is especially celebrated for railway rugs, horse blankets, saddle cloths, linseys, serges, and tweeds, and indeed all kinds of coarse woollens.

HERBERT.

Heversham, near Kendal, is celebrated as the birthplace of Richard Watson, Bishop of Llandaff. He was born in 1737. His father was master of the Grammar School at the former place. He was early sent to Trinity College, Cambridge, but his parents not being in wealthy circumstances, "he had to make his way by hard study and hard living." It is said that his dress at first "was a coarse, mottled Westmoreland coat, and blue yarn stockings." By industry and application he obtained first one professorship and then another ; and at last he was promoted to the bishopric of Llandaff.

MRS. LESLIE.

You have made a slight mistake, Herbert, though not a very material one, in your account. If you refer to the biography, from which I suppose you derived your information, I think you will find that it was more by what is called good fortune that he *received* his appointments, than either by industry or application ; as we are told, both as regards his professorship of chemistry and also of divinity, that he knew very little of either subject at the time of his election ; but, that having been elected, he did not disappoint the confidence that was placed in him, and soon, by industry and application, qualified himself for his high appointments.

HERBERT.

Thank you, mamma; I remember perfectly now, such was the account I read.

MRS. LESLIE.

You remember too, Herbert, no doubt, that as an author he made himself distinguished. His "Apology for Christianity," in answer to the works of the infidel Gibbon, and an "Apology for the Bible," in a series of letters to Thomas Paine, have been very useful.

KATE.

How much I should like to visit the little town of Ambleside. It is described as the most picturesque place in England, having very much the appearance of a Swiss village.

MRS. LESLIE.

And no doubt, Katie, you would very much enjoy an early ramble from Ambleside to the lovely banks of Windermere; and, after an hour spent in that invigorating atmosphere, I venture to say you would return with a keen appetite to partake of the delicious potted char, which would be sure to form an accompaniment to the breakfast table at the excellent inns for which the little town is famed.

WILLIE.

It must be a little town, mamma; for it contains only 1590 inhabitants.

MARION.

Beside the places we have mentioned, Westmoreland contains the towns of Kirkby Lonsdale, Kirkby Stephen, and Burton-in-Kendal; but there is nothing of importance attached to them.

KATE.

The village of Kentmere is celebrated as being the birthplace of Bernard Gilpin, who, for his pious labours in the north of England, was honoured by the title of the "Apostle of the North."

MRS. LESLIE.

Well, Katie, I think you can tell us something more about him.

KATE.

Yes, mamma, my biography says that "his hospitality, charity, and truly amiable character, rendered him the pride of his country; and grateful remembrance must ever venerate his name."

MRS. LESLIE.

A high encomium, Marion; and yet his peculiar characteristic is not mentioned.

MARION.

What was that, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

An habitual trust in the superintending providence of God, and a heartfelt conviction that everything that was permitted to befall him must be "all for the best." Towards the close of Queen Mary's reign, his protestant opinions became known to Bonner, who threatened to bring him to the stake in a fortnight, and had him apprehended for that purpose. While on his way to London, he had the misfortune, as it was thought, to break his leg; which of course for a time put a stop to his journey. While thus detained on the road, some ungodly persons taunted him with his well-known remark, and asked him whether he thought his broken leg was "all for the best." "Sirs, I make no question but it is," was his confident reply. And so it really proved, for before he was able to resume his journey, Queen Mary died, and, instead of being burnt at the stake, Gilpin was restored to his liberty and friends.

WILLIE.

Oh! thank you, mamma; that is an interesting story. How happy it must have made his family to have him back again.

MARION.

There are the ruins of several old castles in different parts of

the county. Howgill Castle, near Milburn, is now occupied as a farm house, and is said to have walls more than ten feet thick.

WILLIE.

Walls ten feet thick ! Can that be true, mamma ?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, my dear : in the unsettled state of the country in the times of which we have been speaking, the walls were made of that prodigious thickness, so that the castles might be very strong ; and even the walls themselves were sometimes used as places of concealment.

WILLIE.

How could that be, mamma ?

MRS. LESLIE.

By having secret chambers in them, which could not have been very difficult. Outside, you know, the walls would look all alike, but here and there might be hollow in the centre.

WILLIE.

Oh yes, mamma, I understand ; and I can only say I am very glad there is no occasion for us to have such houses now.

MRS. LESLIE.

You see, my dear children, although Westmoreland is decidedly not one of the most interesting counties, we have still found something worthy of engaging our attention. As we proceed with our conversations, our subjects will become more varied, and the historical associations will include events bringing us down nearer to our own times, which undoubtedly will awaken increasing interest. Your attention must be directed in the ensuing week to Durham, which is the next county for our consideration.

CONVERSATION IV.

DURHAM.

SUBJECTS:— Origin of Counties Palatine. — St. Cuthbert. — Invocation of Saints. — Scripture only safe Guide. — Boundaries of County. — Detached Portions united to Northumberland. — Holy Island. — See of Durham. — Farne Islands. — Grace Darling. — Ancient Inhabitants. — Size. — Natural Features. — Mineral Productions. — City of Durham. — Historical Reminiscences. — Arbitrary Norman Law. — Cathedral. — Castle. — Rivers. — Sunderland. — Vast Increase in Importance. — Manufactures. — Extraordinary Coal-pit. — Venerable Bede. — General Havelock: Early Disposition. — Original Destination. — Exchange of Profession. — Affghan Wars. — Indian Successes. — Relief of Lucknow. — Death. — Religious Character. — South Shields. — Gateshead. — Darlington, and other Towns.

“WOODLANDS,” the happy home of our young students, had been a scene of more than usual festivity during the past week. Two birthdays had been celebrated, and young friends entertained with all the mirth and joyousness which generally characterise such events. Ordinary lessons had, for the most part, been excused; and it was with somewhat of a feeling of apprehension that her children would be unprepared for their usually desired conversation, that Mrs. Leslie joined them.

“You are aware, my dear children,” she observed, “that it is the county palatine of Durham which is to form the subject of this morning’s conversation; a county, I hope I need not tell you, which well deserves our best attention.”

MARION.

I do not quite understand, mamma, what is meant by a county palatine. Does it mean a bishopric ?

MRS. LESLIE.

No, my love. The word palatine is derived from *palatium*, which signifies a royal palace ; and was applied to a county in which formerly the chief officer had royal privileges, and the same power in the administration of justice within his jurisdiction, as the king himself in his dominions. This absolute power was lodged in the bishops of Durham almost from time immemorial ; but in Chester and Lancaster, which were the other counties palatine, laymen of the highest rank were invested with the regal power.

MARION.

I wonder why those three counties had that peculiar privilege.

MRS. LESLIE.

You know at the early period referred to, Scotland and Wales were hostile to England, and were continually invading her territories. The counties palatine, Durham, Lancaster, and Chester, being near to the enemies' dominions, had power invested in the chief officer of such counties to raise armies and administer justice, without being amenable to any higher authority whatever. They were, in fact, petty sovereigns.

MARION.

But what could be the reason of the kings of England abridging their own power, to bestow it upon the chief officer in the counties palatine ?

MRS. LESLIE.

I think that is evident, Marion. At that period, communication between the different parts of a sovereign's dominions was a very different thing to what it is in these days of railways and electric telegraphs ; and during the time that must have elapsed while that communication was taking place, an enemy might have made

such inroads as could not afterwards have been repelled ; therefore it must have been a great advantage to have had these petty sovereigns stationed at places likely to be subjected to such attacks. The counties palatine of England have now all been annexed to the crown ; but yet they still retain some peculiar privileges.

MARION.

St. Cuthbert was a bishop of Durham at a very early period, I think, mamma.

MRS. LESLIE.

He was. But what do you know about St. Cuthbert, my dear?

MARION.

When I was staying at Arden Hall, last summer, Uncle George was reading very hard (you remember, mamma, it was just before he was called to the bar), and he used to shut himself up in his study, and beg that Aunt Emily and I would not go near him. You know Aunt Emily is very fond of a joke ; and one day she laughed and told him he was only fit to be a monk of the order of St. Cuthbert ; and for some time after always called his study the hermit's cell. I asked her what she meant about St. Cuthbert, and she told me that it was said he never allowed a woman in his presence. When I read yesterday that St. Cuthbert was formerly a bishop of Durham, I thought I would ask if you could tell us anything about him.

MRS. LESLIE.

There are a great many monkish legends relating to him, to which we cannot possibly give credence ; but I believe he was a learned and pious monk, who lived in the seventh century, and was held in great esteem and veneration by the people. The peculiar and apparently unamiable trait in his character, to which you allude, is, I believe, well authenticated ; as it is a matter of history that no woman was ever allowed to enter any of the monasteries which were dedicated to that saint.

KATE.

What a disagreeable man he must have been! I am sure, however learned or pious he was, I should not have liked him. What could be his reason for such a strange dislike?

MRS. LESLIE.

I do not know whether we can depend upon the truthfulness of the reason assigned so much as on the fact itself; but his aversion to our sex is said to have been occasioned by the circumstance of his having been wrongfully accused of crime by a woman; after which, he never suffered one to enter his presence. An anecdote is related respecting Queen Philippa, which shows not only the extent of St. Cuthbert's antipathy, but also the regard paid to his prejudices some centuries after his death.

WILLIE.

Oh, pray let us hear it, mamma.

MRS. LESLIE.

History relates, that "in the year 1333, on Thursday, in Easter Week, Edward the Third came to Durham, and lodged in the priory. On the Wednesday following, his wife, Queen Philippa, came from Knaresborough in one day, to meet him; and being unacquainted with the customs of the Church, went through the abbey gates to the priory; and after supping with the king, retired to rest. This alarmed the monks, one of whom went to the king and informed him that St. Cuthbert had a mortal aversion to the presence of a woman. Unwilling to give any offence to the Church, Edward immediately ordered the queen to arise, who returned by the gate through which she had entered, after most devoutly praying that St. Cuthbert would not avenge a fault which she had through ignorance committed."

WILLIE.

Praying to St. Cuthbert, mamma! I thought you said he had been dead for some centuries.

HERBERT.

Mamma did say so, Willie. St. Cuthbert had been dead more than six hundred years; but in those days the people of England were silly enough to make prayers to pious men and women after they were dead; they called them saints, and believed that they had power to help them in any difficulty.

MRS. LESLIE.

You know, Willie, the reason we do not do so is because we have the Bible to teach us better. At the time of which we are speaking Bibles were very scarce indeed; they were not printed as we have them now, but were written in Latin, and found only in possession of the priests, while everybody else was kept in ignorance of their contents.

HERBERT.

We see, mamma, the same results now, where the Bible is suppressed, as prevailed in the dark middle ages of our own country. The invocation of the saints is still, I believe, one of the favourite dogmas of the Church of Rome.

MRS. LESLIE.

You are right, Herbert. Superstition and error are sure to prevail in the absence of the pure word of God. David, you know, says:—"The entrance of Thy word giveth light; it giveth understanding to the simple;" therefore, in proportion as the Scriptures are withheld from the people, we may expect darkness and ignorance to prevail.

KATE.

Pray mamma, look at this map, for I cannot make it out at all! You see quite at the north of Northumberland, there is a large portion marked part of Durham. What can it mean? I am sure the county of Durham is to the *south* of Northumberland.

WILLIE.

Yes, that it is, mamma. Just look at this atlas; you see Dur-

ham is bounded on the north by Northumberland ; on the east by the North Sea, or German Ocean ; on the south by Yorkshire, and on the west by Cumberland and Westmoreland.

MRS. LESLIE.

Your surprise, my dear children, is quite natural, and yet at the time Katie's map was printed it was perfectly correct. In addition to the main part of Durham, which lies between the rivers Tyne and Tees, there were formerly three detached portions belonging to the county. The principal of these, as this map correctly shows, was towards the north of Northumberland, and certainly appeared to belong to that county. It consisted of Northamptonshire and Islandshire, the latter comprehending Holy Island and the Farne Isles ; those small islands you see to the south of Holy Island. These detached portions have been united to Northumberland by act of Parliament during the present reign.

HERBERT.

Holy Island was formerly called Lindisfarne, I think.

MRS. LESLIE.

It was. The name Holy Island was given to it, from its having been the residence of several of the fathers of the Saxon church. St. Cuthbert, of whom we have been speaking, laboured there in his episcopal capacity ; he died on one of the Farne Islands, and was buried at Holy Island ; but it is related, that his remains were afterwards exhumed, and taken for interment to the place where the city of Durham now stands.

KATE.

For what reason, mamma ?

MRS. LESLIE.

In consequence of an invasion of the Danes, who treated the Christians with peculiar cruelty, the bishop and abbot of the church, with some others, agreed to remove the remains of their

beloved saint, lest they should be exposed to insult and desecration. This, it is said, was not accomplished without incredible toil and difficulty; such only as the most indomitable perseverance could ever have overcome.

MARION.

It appears to have been a labour of love, but do you not think, mamma, that it would have been much better to have devoted their pious zeal to the protection of the living?

MRS. LESLIE.

Undoubtedly, my dear. A decent and affectionate regard to the remains of our deceased friends, is not only allowable, but commendable; but still, after the spirit has departed, the body is but like a casket bereft of its jewel; and, as we know the bodies of the sleeping saints, wherever they may be, must awake to glory on the morning of the resurrection, it matters comparatively little what becomes of them meanwhile.

KATE.

You said, mamma, that St. Cuthbert's remains were taken to the place where the city of Durham now stands. Was it not a city then?

MRS. LESLIE.

At that time it is described as "a place strong by nature, but not rendered easily habitable, as it was overgrown by a thick forest, in the midst of which was a small plain which had been used for tillage." From that period, however, the city took its rise.

MARION.

But you said, mamma, that St. Cuthbert was a bishop of Durham, and yet it appears that the city did not exist until some time after his death; how then could it be the seat of a bishopric?

MRS. LESLIE.

The early seat of the bishopric of Durham was the island of Lindisfarne, which we have just mentioned. The see was not removed to Durham until the close of the tenth century.

HERBERT.

It was on one of the Farne islands that the Forfarshire steam vessel was wrecked some years ago, when Grace Darling heroically distinguished herself in the rescue of so many of its passengers from a watery grave. It is said that this circumstance has attracted many tourists thither, who, most probably, would otherwise have felt no interest at all in visiting the lonely isle.

WILLIE.

Who was Grace Darling, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

The daughter of the man who kept the lighthouse there. You saw a lighthouse you know, Willie, when we went to Dover last summer; and I dare say you remember, I told you that high tower with the light at the top was made to guide the sailors in steering their vessels, so that they might not, of a dark night, strike on the sands, which extend so far into the sea. Such lighthouses are erected on different parts of the coast, where dangerous rocks and quicksands are known to exist; and it was in one of those dreary dwellings that the heroic woman resided whom Herbert has mentioned.

WILLIE.

But what did she do, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

The circumstance occurred about twenty years ago, and I have not met with any account of it since; but if I remember right, she ventured out upon a raging sea, in an open boat,

to the rescue of the passengers of the ill-fated "Forfarshire;" and, after safely bringing to land as many as the boat would hold, went again and again, until all were saved. But we have been digressing from our usual course. Before we proceed farther, we must notice the original inhabitants of this county.

HERBERT.

Like the former counties we have mentioned, Durham was, at the time of its earliest history, inhabited by the Brigantes. Under the Roman power, it belonged to the province of Maxima Cæsariensis, and during the Saxon Heptarchy, was included in the kingdom of Northumberland.

MARION.*

The greatest length of this county is from east to west, and is about forty-eight miles; its greatest breadth is thirty-nine miles.

HERBERT.

The general aspect of Durham is hilly and mountainous. Some parts towards the west are bleak and barren, but it has some beautiful and fertile valleys, well adapted for pasturage and the growth of corn. Its chief wealth consists in its extensive coal mines, which lie towards the north and north-east part of the county. It has also mines of iron and lead. The annual mineral produce of this county is united with the returns for Northumberland.

MRS. LESLIE.

And now, Willie, tell us near what river the city of Durham stands.

WILLIE.

The Wear, mamma.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; it is built upon a remarkable rocky eminence, and is almost surrounded by the Wear; therefore, of course, it is nearly an island. The banks of the river are precipitous, and beautifully

wooded, which give a picturesque appearance to this fine old city. Do you know, Herbert, from what its name is derived?

HERBERT.

It is said to be a corruption of two Saxon words, applicable to the description you have just given of the city, and from which the county itself takes its name. "Dur," a hill, and "holme," a river-island. A celebrated Roman road proves that its site was known to the Romans.

MRS. LESLIE.

The earliest account we have of it as a fortified city, is about the year 1040, when it was attacked by Duncan, king of Scotland; and the inhabitants, after sustaining the assaults of the enemy for a lengthened period, totally defeated the assailants. But as I think you are all rather weary of hearing about the Border Wars, we will not dwell upon the particulars of the engagement. I am sorry, however, that we must still touch upon scenes of bloodshed in connection with this county.

WILLIE.

Oh dear! I am very sorry too. It is so much more pleasant to hear of the manners and customs of the people, and of the time when the different things we use were invented, or first brought to England.

MRS. LESLIE.

Very true, my little boy; but you know, to be faithful historians of each county, we must not omit anything of importance, although it be such as we would willingly pass over. I should think, Marion, you can tell us by whom the city was next desolated?

MARION.

By William the Conqueror, who, by fire and sword, reduced it to ashes. Neither churches nor monasteries were spared; and it

is said that for sixty miles, between York and Durham, he did not leave a house standing.

KATE.

But how came William the Conqueror to destroy any part of his own country ?

MRS. LESLIE.

You remember, I dare say, that it was a long time after William ascended the English throne, before the people generally were willing to receive him as their king. The Saxon noblemen were much aggrieved by his depriving them of their estates, in order to bestow them upon his Norman followers, and for many years they struggled to free their country from the Norman yoke. It was during this unsettled state of the nation, that William sent a Norman nobleman, named Robert Comyn, and 700 Norman soldiers, to enforce his authority in the North. They entered the city of Durham like a band of freebooters, and committed the greatest barbarities ; which so enraged the inhabitants, and likewise the population of the surrounding neighbourhood, that they fell upon the Norman assailants, and completely overpowered them ; Comyn, and nearly all his men, being slain in the tumult. It was to avenge this destruction of his Norman adherents, that William, with a large army, marched against Durham, and laid it waste, as Marion has related. That part of the country was completely depopulated, and the lands remained uncultivated for nine years after that dreadful desolation.

MARION.

While we are speaking of the Normans, may I, mamma, for Willie's gratification, tell him something I met with the other day, showing the king's wishes relative to the language of this country at that time ?

MRS. LESLIE.

Certainly, my dear, we shall all be pleased to hear it. There is no objection whatever to your speaking of any useful subject suggested by our conversation, though it be not directly connected with the county under consideration.

MARION.

Thank you, mamma. You know, Willie, that William the Conqueror came from Normandy, a province of France; and when he became king of England, he wanted to change the language of this country, and make everybody speak French. He even ordered that children should be taught it, instead of the Anglo-Saxon, which was their mother tongue.

WILLIE.

I suppose he did not succeed, or else most likely we should be able to speak French now, without having to learn it out of books.

MARION.

Well done, Willie! I never thought of that. No, he could not accomplish his wish entirely in that respect; but yet, for a long time, the French language was very much spoken, and the French customs adopted; and a great many of the words we use now are of Norman origin; our word *sir*, is abbreviated, or shortened, from their *monsieur*, and I have heard that the name Charing Cross is partly of French origin.

HERBERT.

I must say, Marion, I cannot see how you can make that out.

MARION.

You know, Herbert, we have learned that Edward the First grieved very much for the loss of his beloved queen, and that he caused crosses to be erected at every place where her corpse rested on its way to interment. It is said that Charing Cross was one of those places; and that Charing is a corruption of the words *chere reine*, which, I need not tell you, mean "dear queen," and was a term of endearment which he often applied to her.

MRS. LESLIE.

Some writers contend for that fanciful derivation; but the more natural one is to be found in the fact, that Charing was the name

of a small village which existed there at the time the cross was built. Your account, however, has been quite a pleasing digression from the subject of wars and tumults. I dare say you remember that French was always spoken in public courts, and written in law deeds, from the time of William the Conqueror until the reign of Edward the Third, by whom it was prohibited. And now, Herbert, have you anything further to mention in connection with the city of Durham?

HERBERT.

It suffered considerably at different times, not only from invasion by the Scots, but from insurrection at home. It has also received many royal visits, some of a hostile, and others of a friendly nature.

KATE.

Oh! pray pass by the hostile accounts; or, I am afraid, you will not have time to tell us of the friendly ones.

MRS. LESLIE.

Perhaps you had better do so, Herbert; for we must not occupy much more of our time with this city.

HERBERT.

I read, this morning, that on the promotion of Richard de Bury to the bishopric, the palace presented a remarkable scene of festivity, as he had the honour of entertaining, on that occasion, "Edward the Third, and his Queen Philippa, the queen dowager, the king of Scotland, two archbishops, five bishops, seven earls and their ladies, all the nobility north of the Trent, and a vast assemblage of abbots and friars."

MRS. LESLIE.

That was a princely gathering indeed; perhaps Marion can relate some particulars of an entertainment at Durham Palace, that took place upon another occasion.

MARION.

I suppose, mamma, you mean on the occasion of the marriage of James the First, of Scotland, with Jane of Somerset, the granddaughter of John of Gaunt. There is an account in Dugdale, which says, that the royal pair arrived at the palace of the bishop in March, 1424, attended by a numerous retinue of the English nobility of the highest rank, and were met by a vast train of the most illustrious personages in Scotland. The king and queen stayed there till the beginning of April.

MRS. LESLIE.

There are many other accounts of royal visits to this city, but our notice of them must be very brief indeed. In 1633, we find Charles the First a guest of the bishop of Durham, and again, in 1639, when that monarch was advancing northward to oppose the Scots, he was entertained at the palace. During the civil wars which followed, this county was the scene of several skirmishes, and ultimately came into the hands of Cromwell's party. The see was then dissolved, but re-established upon the Restoration, with some of its prerogatives abridged. Since that period the local history of the county has considerably diminished in interest.

KATE.

Are there any manufactories in the city of Durham, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Not any of importance, Katie; Durham is a quiet cathedral and university city, with a population of about 13,000, and presents totally different features to those of a busy manufacturing town. The cathedral and castle are the chief objects of interest. The cathedral, which was commenced in the reign of William Rufus, was carried on under the superintendence of two successive bishops, who had great talent for architecture. It is considered a fine specimen of the Norman style, and with the several additions that were made to it up to the fifteenth century, exhibits the gradual changes in English architecture up to that period. Before we

notice the principal towns of Durham, Willie had better mention its chief rivers.

WILLIE.

They are the Tyne, the Wear, and the Tees.

KAME.

Sunderland, South Shields, Gateshead, and Darlington, are all populous towns of Durham.

MARION.

Although Sunderland is a handsome seaport town, containing a population of about 67,000, it is not even mentioned by Camden, and yet he notices many other places of far less consequence.

MRS. LESLIE.

Not of less consequence in his day. Sunderland, owing to its extensive exportation of coal, has rapidly risen to importance during the last century. In Camden's time it was not even recognised as a distinct town, but was included in the parish of Bishop Wearmouth. Now it is a busy, thriving place. Ship-building is carried on to a great extent, and there are large manufactories of rope, bottle, and flint glass, iron-foundries, and many other industrial works peculiar to a seaport town.

KATE.

It was at Sunderland that the first visitation of cholera appeared in 1832.

HERBERT.

Monk Wearmouth, one of the suburbs of Sunderland, with a population of about 17,000, is greatly celebrated for its coal-pit, which has one of the deepest mining shafts in the world. It is said that if the monument of London were piled seven or eight times high, the descent from it would not be greater than that into the Monk Wearmouth pit.

MRS. LESLIE.

Such a view of the subject is indeed astounding, and certainly gives one a more correct idea of the reality, than the mere mention of the number of feet it is in depth.

MARION.

In the neighbourhood of Wearmouth the Venerable Bede was born. When seven years old, he was sent to the monastery of Jarrow, to be educated for a priest, and as he grew up, his fame for learning and piety was so great, that in his thirtieth year the Pope wrote to the Abbot of Jarrow to send him to Rome, but Bede declined the honour, and devoted his life to writing good books, and instructing the young monks.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; his life was eminently useful, and death found him at his post. Though his last illness was long and painful, he continued his pious labours to the last. He was, with the aid of a young monk named Wilberch, translating the Gospel of St. John into the Saxon language. The young man who wrote for him, said, "There is now, master, but one sentence wanting," upon which he bade him write quickly; and when the scribe said, "It is now done," the dying sage replied, "It is now done," and a few minutes afterwards, in the act of prayer, expired on the floor of his cell, in the sixty-third year of his age.

HERBERT.

Marion mentioned the Abbot of Jarrow, which reminds me that some ruins of the monastery of Jarrow, near South Shields, still remain. The monastery was twice destroyed; once it was burnt by the Danes, and the second time was laid in ruins by William the Conqueror, in the course of the ravages which have been mentioned. The church was partly rebuilt in 1783. In the vestry is preserved a rudely formed oaken seat, apparently hewn out with an axe, and said to have belonged to the Venerable Bede.

KATE.

How much I should like to see it. It puts me in mind of the stool described by Cowper in his "Task."

HERBERT.

Come, Marion, let us have the passage. You are such an admirer of Cowper, I venture to say you can repeat it.

MARION.

I will endeavour to do so.

"Those barbarous ages past, succeeded next
The birthday of invention; weak at first,
Dull in design, and clumsy to perform,
Joint stools were then created; on three legs
Upborne they stood. Three legs upholding firm
A massy slab, in fashion square or round.
On such a stool immortal Alfred sat,
And swayed the sceptre of his infant realm.
And such in ancient halls and mansions drear
May still be seen; but perforated sore,
And drilled in holes, the solid oak is found
By worms voracious eaten through and through."

HERBERT.

Thank you, my dear sister; but I suppose if Cowper's idea of the Great Alfred's seat of state was a correct one, Bede's stool must be a still more rude and clumsy affair, as he lived two centuries earlier than the good Saxon king.

MRS. LESLIE.

With the reminiscences of Wearmouth is associated the name of one of our best and bravest men—one, whose death in the meridian of his fame and glory, England is now mourning as a national calamity.

HERBERT.

Surely, you must mean General Havelock, mamma.

MRS. LESLIE.

I do, Herbert. That great and good man was born at Bishop Wearmouth, on the 5th of April, 1795. He was descended from an old, but impoverished family, and the position in the army to which he attained, was the result of his own great abilities and sterling qualities; altogether unaided by patronage or fortune.

KATE.

Oh! mamma, I hope you are going to tell us something of the early life of Sir Henry Havelock. We have heard so much of his wonderful successes in India, lately, and of his being such a good man, as well as such a brave soldier, that we should like to know what sort of a person he was when young.

MRS. LESLIE.

During his boyhood, Henry Havelock is spoken of as sedate, and reflecting beyond his years. He received his education at the Charter House, where his staid demeanour is said to have gained him the appellation of "old Phlos" among his school companions, with whom he seems to have been a general favourite.

KATE.

I think I have heard that he was not brought up to the military profession?

MRS. LESLIE.

His parents intended him for the law, and sent him to the Middle Temple, to study under the celebrated Chitty, but after a time, he exchanged the legal for the military profession, the latter being more congenial to his heroic spirit. Being destitute of patronage, it was many years, however, before he rose above the position of a subaltern.

HERBERT.

I never heard of General Havelock before this Indian mutiny.

MRS. LESLIE.

He distinguished himself considerably several years ago in the

Affghan and other Indian wars; but, as you say, it is his recent wonderful achievements which have made his name a "household word" among the hearths and homes of England. In the short space of two months he gained nine victories over a force greatly superior to his own. His rescue, with a mere handful of men, of the women and children imprisoned at Lucknow, is a deed that will long be remembered by his grateful countrymen.

MARION.

I think I heard papa say, that General Havelock died without being aware of the honours and title intended for him.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; his death, which was caused by an attack of dysentery, brought on by fatigue, exposure, and mental anxiety, took place at Alumbagh, near Cawnpore, on the 25th of November last and the baronetcy was not conferred until the 26th; but without doubt he has exchanged the perishable honours of time for a crown of glory which fadeth not away.

MARION.

A soldier's life must be a very unfavourable one for the growth of piety, I should think.

MRS. LESLIE.

And yet the army has produced some of the most eminent Christians. General Havelock was himself an instance of how little untoward circumstances have to do with a man's religion, if his heart be really in the matter. It is related that, even during the most arduous service, he never failed to secure two hours in the morning for the reading of the Scriptures and prayer. If the march began at six, he rose at four; if at four, he rose at two, and so on; but we must proceed.

MARION.

South Shields is a flourishing seaport town on the south bank

of the river Tyne, with a population of nearly 29,000. Antiquaries believe this to have been the site of a Roman station, as numerous Roman remains have been found near the harbour. This is a place which has also risen to importance in modern times, as some centuries back it appears to have been an inconsiderable village.

KATE.

It was at South Shields that the first life-boat was built, by Mr. Greathead and a few other scientific men; 1200*l.* was granted to them by parliament for their valuable invention.

HERBERT.

The rising town of Gateshead, with a population of more than 25,000, although in this county, is, in fact, but a suburb of Newcastle, with which it is connected by a handsome bridge over the Tyne. Camden, however, considers it to have been of greater antiquity than Newcastle, although he says at one period they evidently formed but one town. Gateshead derives its present importance from the coal trade and the manufacture of wrought iron.

MARION.

Darlington appears to be chiefly celebrated for its cotton, linen, and woollen manufactures. It is a neat, respectable looking town, containing about 11,000 inhabitants.

MRS. LESLIE.

Hartlepool is one of the most rapidly rising towns of Durham. Twenty years ago its population did not exceed 1500; it now numbers upwards of 9000 inhabitants. The town is situated on a beautiful bay of the German Ocean, and has been greatly improved during the last few years by the construction of a fine harbour and extensive docks.

WILLIE.

Why, mamma! in the last few towns we have not had a word about kings and queens, and old castles and battle-fields.

MRS. LESLIE.

Very true, Willie; the towns of which we have last been speaking are celebrated more for their trade and commerce than for historical associations. The interest attached to them is derived from the present industry of their inhabitants, rather than from their having been the scenes of bygone great events.

KATE.

Oh! but that is not half as interesting.

MRS. LESLIE.

Perhaps not as exciting, Katie; but you must remember that the industry of the thousands who labour in our great commercial and manufacturing towns contributes to our daily comfort and convenience, while many of the stirring events you like to hear of resulted in misery and bloodshed.

MARION.

I think we have now mentioned most of the places of consequence in Durham, mamma; Stockton-upon-Tees and Bishop Auckland are towns of inferior importance, and have but little interest attached to them.

MRS. LESLIE.

And now, my dear children, it only remains for me to express my satisfaction in finding that the unusual gaiety of the last few days has not had the effect of diminishing your interest in intellectual and mental pursuits. Yorkshire will be the next subject for our consideration, a county which I assure you will amply repay you for the labour of research.

CONVERSATION V.

YORKSHIRE.

SUBJECTS: — Boundaries. — Ancient Inhabitants. — Conquest by Romans. — Size. — Signification of Ridings and other ancient Divisions. — Most important District. — Natural Features. — Rivers. — Mineral Productions. — City of York. — Residence of Roman Emperors. — Establishment of Christianity in Roman Empire. — York destroyed by William the Conqueror. — Massacre of Jews, and other Historical Reminiscences. — Battle of Marston Moor. — York Minster. — Manufactures. — Leeds. — Bradford. — Halifax. — Ancient Law of great Severity. — Huddersfield. — Wakefield. — Sheffield: for what celebrated in ancient and modern Times. — Hull. — Whitby. — Doncaster. — Scarborough. — Harrogate. — Ruins of Fountains Abbey. — Dropping Well. — Pontefract Castle. — Historical Recollections. — Captain Cook: Humble Origin. — Early Predilection for the Sea. — Remarkable Discoveries. — Promotion. — Death.

“KATIE, do you remember what you said when we were preparing for our conversation on Westmoreland?” said Herbert Leslie to his youngest sister, who was attentively looking over some large volumes which lay before her.

KATE.

Yes; I know I said that it was a dull dry county, and so little mentioned in history that I could hardly find anything to say about it.

HERBERT.

I suppose you have not the same complaint to make respecting Yorkshire?

KATE.

No, that indeed I have not; I rather think the fault to-day will be that our time will not allow us to mention half that might be said.

MRS. LESLIE.

You are right, my dear children; Yorkshire is a county teeming with interest, both of a natural and historical character, and as we shall have so much to engage our attention we had better at once proceed with our investigation. I am sure Willie can tell us something about this county.

WILLIE.

It is the largest county in England and Wales. Its capital is York, upon the northern Ouse.

MRS. LESLIE.

Very well, Willie; but we must not go on too fast. Let us now ascertain how Yorkshire is bounded.

KATE.

Yorkshire is bounded on the north by the German Ocean and Durham; on the east by the German Ocean; on the south by the river Humber and the counties of Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, and Lincolnshire; and on the west by Lancashire and Westmoreland.

MARION.

Like all the other counties we have mentioned, the earliest known inhabitants of Yorkshire were the Brigantes. On their subjugation by the Romans their territories were included in the province of Flavia Cæsariensis, and during the Saxon Heptarchy they formed part of the kingdom of Northumberland.

KATE.

How many times that British tribe has been mentioned. I should like to know what sort of people they were.

MRS. LESLIE.

The Brigantes were the most powerful and numerous of the

tribes which then possessed the island. Their name is said to have denoted their character, the term brigand being given to robbers and plunderers, and therefore applicable to them, as they were notorious for their incursions into the neighbouring territories. The Brigantes long withstood the Roman power; but were at length subdued by Agricola, the Roman governor of Britain.

HERBERT.

I find the extent of Yorkshire is more than one-tenth of that of the whole of England and Wales. Its greatest length is about 124 miles, and its greatest breadth about 90 miles. In consequence of its size it is divided into three parts, called ridings; the North Riding, East Riding, and West Riding, and in some respects they are treated as distinct counties.

KATE.

I wonder why those divisions are called ridings?

MRS. LESLIE.

For the better government of England the Saxons divided it into tithings, hundreds, or wapentakes, and trithings, or ridings. A tithing meant ten families, the masters of which were under the care of a tithing-man, whose duty it was to see that they conducted themselves with propriety, and brought up their children and servants in a proper manner.

WILLIE.

What a curious custom! But now, mamma, please to tell us what a hundred, or wapentake, means?

MRS. LESLIE.

Ten tithings made a hundred, which was also called a wapentake, from the custom of the governor holding up a weapon at the time he was put into office, which the elders of the tithings touched with their weapons in token of subjection to him.

MARION.

I am glad you are going to explain the term riding, for I have been quite unable to ascertain from what it is derived.

MRS. LESLIE.

The word riding is a corruption of an old Saxon word *trithing*, which simply means the third part of a province. The governor of a riding had power and authority over the smaller divisions of the district, and to him was referred all such cases as were difficult of decision by the chief officers in the wapentakes, or hundreds. Some other counties were formerly divided into ridings, but this peculiarity now exists in Yorkshire alone.

MARION.

I believe the West Riding of Yorkshire is the most important district?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes. It is the seat of the woollen manufacture of the North of England, its prosperity being greatly enhanced by the number of its navigable rivers and canals. This riding is bounded on the west by the great Pennine chain of mountains, sometimes called the English Apennines, which extends from Scotland to Staffordshire, and forms the most mountainous district of England.

MARION.

I suppose the scenery of this part of Yorkshire is very beautiful?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; it presents a charming prospect to the eye of an admirer of nature. The mountains, in many instances, are rocky and irregularly formed, and interspersed with beautifully wooded valleys, studded with villages, and embellished with lakes and waterfalls. The most celebrated valleys are those of Wharfedale, Nidderdale, and the Vale of the Aire. A celebrated traveller, the late Bishop of Meath, who had visited the rocky scenery of India and Arabia, declared that he had never witnessed anything to compare

with the natural beauties connected with the source of the river Aire.

WILLIE.

The principal rivers of Yorkshire are the Humber, which separates it from Lincolnshire, the Northern Ouse, the Swale, the Wharfe, the Derwent, the Aire, and the Don.

KATE.

The mineral productions of Yorkshire are coal, iron, lead, and silver. The mountain limestone is also held in high estimation.

MRS. LESLIE.

As a coal producing county, Yorkshire is only exceeded by the coal fields of Northumberland and Durham. In 1856 more than 9,000,000 tons of coal were raised in Yorkshire alone. To give you an idea of the mineral importance of each county, as well as its manufacturing industry, it will be necessary, in mentioning iron, first to state the quantity of ore annually raised, and then the amount of iron manufactured; because, as we found in Northumberland, the manufacture is not necessarily regulated by the local supply. Yorkshire furnishes another example. In 1856, 1,439,517 tons of iron ore were raised, while the pig-iron produced in the county only amounted to 275,600 tons. As I told you before, a large supply was sent from Cleveland to the Northumberland and Durham works. In the same year nearly 9000 tons of lead and 302 ounces of silver were procured from the mines of this county.

KATE.

I should like to know something of the early history of the city of York. I have not met with any mention of it until after the Norman Conquest.

HERBERT.

Why, Katie, with all those ponderous volumes that you brought out of the library yesterday, and have been poring over all the morning, I should have thought you could have given us a history of the city from its very foundation!

MRS. LESLIE.

Come, come, Herbert; you must not be too hard upon your sister; I daresay we shall find that her attention has been directed to some other interesting subject connected with this county. Let us have the benefit of your knowledge upon the point in question.

HERBERT.

Before the invasion of the Romans, it is thought that a British town existed where York now stands; but it is supposed to have consisted only of a few miserable huts, surrounded by a trench, in the midst of a vast overgrown forest.

MRS. LESLIE.

And yet it is believed to have been the chief city of the powerful tribe we have so often mentioned, under the name of Brigantes.

KATE.

What a wretched place to call a chief city! I should think it bore more resemblance to an Indian wigwam.

HERBERT.

That *wigwam*, Katie, rapidly improved under the skilful hands of the conquering Romans, and soon became the principal Roman station of the North, and indeed of the whole province of Britain. The Emperor Severus, and his two sons, came to this country about the year 200, and made York, or Eboracum, as it was then called, their principal place of residence. The Emperor died, and was buried there.

MARION.

Was not Constantine, the first Christian Roman Emperor, born at York, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Such is a generally received opinion; but the evidence upon which it rests is scarcely sufficient to establish it as a fact. Whatever was his birth-place, Constantine was undoubtedly raised up by God for a mighty purpose, which was nothing less than the de-

struction of Paganism, and the establishment of Christianity in the Roman empire, about the commencement of the fourth century.

MARION.

I cannot understand how that can be, mamma. You told us some time ago, that the Britons received the first knowledge of Christianity from the Romans, as early, probably, as the first or second century; therefore it must have been established in Rome before its introduction to Britain, I should think.

MRS. LESLIE.

Your reasoning is plausible, but not correct, Marion. Christianity *existed* in Rome even in the Apostolic age, but it was not the *allowed* and *established* religion of the empire until the reign of Constantine. Prior to that period the Roman Christians suffered the most cruel persecutions from the pagan emperors; but it is by no means improbable, that even during the time of those persecutions, some of them settled in Britain, and brought with them the "glad tidings" of the gospel; the possession of which by the Britons at such an early period we cannot account for by any other means.

MARION.

Thank you, mamma; I see it very clearly now.

MRS. LESLIE.

As Katie has implied, the historical records of the city of York are somewhat scanty before the Conquest, although there is every reason to believe that it continued a place of considerable importance. As we shall have no lack of matter as we proceed, we had better pass on until after that era.

KATE.

The first account I met with, was that which relates to the destruction of the city and neighbourhood by William the Conqueror, and which we mentioned last week.

MRS. LESLIE.

And therefore we need not dwell upon it now. Perhaps you can mention a most unjustifiable and cruel act which took place early in the reign of Richard the First.

KATE.

Oh! yes. You mean the massacre of the Jews. I have read that from a thousand to fifteen hundred in the city of York alone were either put to death by the fury of the populace, or killed themselves in absolute despair, occasioned by the miseries they were made to endure at the time of Richard's coronation.

WILLIE.

I thought the coronation of a king was a very joyful event: what could have been the reason for so much cruelty?

MRS. LESLIE.

At that period, my dear, there was a very different feeling towards the Jews from that which happily exists at the present time. Christians now feel it a pleasure to do them good; but at one time it was thought no crime to rob, or even to murder a Jew, who was considered to be no better than a dog, and was treated with the greatest indignities. Such was Richard's dislike to that unhappy race, that he expressly commanded that no Jew should be allowed to be present at his coronation; and the people, either mistaking the king's orders, or thinking it would please him better to get rid of them altogether, suddenly fell upon, and massacred great numbers of those who lived in London; while the same cruelty and violence quickly spread to other cities. In York, especially, the poor Jews were the victims of the greatest possible barbarity.

MARION.

I remember reading, that although the Jews in this country were very rich about that time, they were not even allowed to dress as other people, but were compelled to wear a large yellow

cap when they went out of doors, to distinguish them from Christians.

KATE.

I cannot bear to think of all the cruelties that have been practised towards them; I always feel so sorry for a Jew, because he is an outcast from his own beloved land.

MRS. LESLIE.

A still more important cause for sympathy towards that people exists, my love, in their rejection of the true Messiah, which was the cause of their exile from Jerusalem, and of all their miseries in other lands.

WILLIE.

Will you tell me all about it, dear mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Another time, my little boy; at present we must not digress further from the subject of this morning's conversation. There are, my dear children, so many historical events connected with the city of York, that we must necessarily omit some of them, if we are to mention any other places of note in this county; we must, therefore, endeavour to select those that are most interesting and important. I shall be happy to have some account of those you consider to be so.

HERBERT.

York appears to have been the head-quarters of the armies of the first three Edwards, in their progress towards Scotland, to attempt its subjugation; but Edward the Third, after an attempt as unsuccessful as those of his predecessors, gave up the project, and applied all his forces to make a warlike attack on France.

MRS. LESLIE.

Very good, Herbert. It was, you know, during the brief interval of quietude between those expeditions, that Edward the Third

carried Philippa of Hainault, a queen greatly distinguished for her intrepidity and valour, when occasion called them forth, as well as for her good sense and the gentler virtues of her sex.

WILLIE.

Is she not the same queen that so astonished me last week by praying to St. Cuthbert after he was dead?

MRS. LESLIE.

The very same, Willie.

WILLIE.

But you speak of her as a wise and good woman! How could she be, if she did such foolish and wicked things?

MRS. LESLIE.

She had many virtues and good qualities, Willie, notwithstanding the errors in which she had been educated. The sad superstition you allude to was more her misfortune than her fault; because, as I told you last week, she had not the Bible to teach her better, and only acted as she had been taught was right. But a brighter day was about to dawn upon England. A few years from the time of which we are speaking, a good man named Wickliffe, who was born in this county, translated the Scriptures into the English language, and thus put it in the power of the people to read and understand them for themselves.

HERBERT.

Wickliffe might well be called "The Morning Star of the Reformation." Do you not think so, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

I do, indeed. But now I should like to be informed of an instance in which Queen Philippa's valour was displayed.

MARION.

She greatly distinguished herself at the battle of Neville's

Cross, when Robert Bruce, the Scottish king, was taken prisoner, and conveyed to the Tower of London.

MRS. LESLIE.

How came the queen to be engaged in that battle?

MARION.

You know, mamma, Herbert told us that her husband, Edward the Third, gave up the attempt of conquering Scotland, and decided on attacking France. While he was engaged in that expedition, David Bruce took advantage of his absence, and invaded England; when Philippa collected a large body of troops at York, and very quickly took him prisoner. She then hastened to France to tell the king the welcome news.

HERBERT.

That journey to France must have been a trial of the patience of the valiant queen, who, of course, was very anxious to convey such important intelligence; while in our day it could have reached the king in less time than we have been talking of it.

MRS. LESLIE.

Very true, Herbert. The electric telegraph is indeed a wonder of wonders to ourselves; what would have been thought of it in the middle ages, I cannot possibly imagine!

WILLIE.

How strange it seems to think of ladies going to battle! We have already heard of two queens who did so; I suppose it was quite common in those days.

MRS. LESLIE.

It was not thought at all out of character for them to do so, when circumstances seemed to render it necessary. I can tell you of another queen who defended her husband's cause at York for

some time with much success, a lady too of distinguished beauty of person and elegance of manners.

KATE.

Oh! please, mamma, do let me tell you whom I think you mean.

MRS. LESLIE.

Well then, Katie.

KATE.

Is it not Henrietta Maria, the wife of Charles the First?

MRS. LESLIE.

It is; but let us hear what you remember of the circumstances.

KATE.

In the wars which Charles had with his parliament his greatest difficulty arose from his want of money to carry them on; and his queen escaped to Holland with her jewels, which having converted into cash, she purchased a small supply of arms and ammunition for the war. In returning to England she was very nearly taken prisoner, but succeeded in evading her enemies, and landed in safety at Bridlington, on the coast of Yorkshire, after which she proceeded to York, and sustained her husband's cause there with much success.

HERBERT.

But the city was at last compelled to surrender.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, the battle of Marston Moor, about nine miles from York, decided the fate of the unfortunate royalists in the North, and left Cromwell in possession of the city. There is much more of an historical character we might relate in connection with this city, did time permit; but we must pass on, and in the first place we will notice an object of the very highest interest to those who visit York.

MARION.

Of course you mean its magnificent cathedral.

MRS. LESLIE.

I do; and well does that stupendous and venerable pile demand our best attention. As an architectural achievement it stands unrivalled in this country.

KATE.

Before we go farther, mamma, will you tell me why it is called York Minster?

MRS. LESLIE.

The term minster comes from the Latin, *monasterium*, and is applied to cathedrals which owe their celebrity to a monastery which formerly existed on the spot. The names of places are sometimes taken from having such a cathedral in their immediate vicinity, as Westminster and Leominster. Have you anything to tell us, Herbert, about the far-famed York Minster?

HERBERT.

It is built in the form of a cross. Its extreme length from east to west, including the choir and nave, is about five hundred and twenty feet; and its breadth from north to south, with the transepts, two hundred and twenty-two feet. The choir is divided from the nave by a stone screen, elaborately carved, and containing fifteen niches, which are occupied by the statues of the English kings from the Norman conqueror to Henry the Sixth. This screen and the great east window, which is of stained glass and seventy-five feet high and thirty-two wide, are considered the greatest ornaments of the cathedral.

MRS. LESLIE.

The chapter-house, contiguous to the northern transept, is an elegant and tasteful structure, and is an object of general admiration. It is in the form of an octagon, with an arched roof, and contains forty-four stalls, made of the finest marble. But any

description that can be given fails to convey an adequate idea of the exquisite architecture of York Minster. To be appreciated, it must be seen.

KATE.

Do you think, mamma, that the imposing appearance of our old cathedrals in any way contributes to the real devotion of the worshippers?

MRS. LESLIE.

Certainly not, my dear. The feelings may be excited even to enthusiasm by the grandeur, and, as you truly call it, the *imposing* appearance of the place; but such devotion of heart as a holy God requires cannot possibly be in the power of architecture to supply. You know He says, "I dwell with him that is of a contrite and humble spirit;" and such a lowly state of heart can only be produced by the direct influences of His Holy Spirit; hence the force of that touching supplication in the beautiful liturgy of our church, "Take not Thy Holy Spirit from us."

HERBERT.

In 1829, the magnificent York Minster was nearly destroyed by fire, by a maniac named Jonathan Martin. The organ, one of the finest in Europe, was sacrificed to the flames. The destruction of the cathedral was regarded as a national calamity, and 50,000*l.* was collected in a few months towards its restoration. It has been rebuilt with a scrupulous regard to its original design.

KATE.

Is York at all celebrated for manufactures?

MRS. LESLIE.

No; but it is the seat of an extensive trade, divided into various branches. Its confectionary is much esteemed in many parts of the kingdom. The roasting of coffee forms one important part of the industrial occupations of the city, York having been formerly one of four places to which that operation was restricted by the board of excise. Leather gloves, combs, and many articles of

horn, are also made to some extent. The population of York is upwards of 36,000. Now, Willie, can you mention some of the principal towns of Yorkshire?

WILLIE.

Leeds, Sheffield, Hull, Halifax, Huddersfield, Scarborough, and Whitby, are all towns of Yorkshire.

MARION.

Leeds is a large and flourishing market-town on the river Aire. It contains a population of more than 172,000, and has long been celebrated as the chief seat of the cloth manufacture of the north of England.

WILLIE.

What kind of cloth is made at Leeds, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

For a long time the manufacture was almost confined to the coarser kinds of woollen cloth, but of late years superfine cloth, kerseymeres, pelisse cloths, shawls, and fancy goods in great variety, have also been made.

WILLIE.

What a number of inhabitants Leeds contains!

MRS. LESLIE.

It does, Willie; and we may suppose it was a populous place even in Saxon times, as the name is derived from the Saxon word *Leod*, which signifies people.

HERBERT.

Leeds appears to be a place of numerous and varied branches of industry.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; it has collieries, iron and brass foundries, oil and mustard mills, chemical works, paper and cotton mills, potteries, and many

other important industrial establishments. The town has been greatly improved in appearance during the present century, and the benefit it has derived from the establishment of railways is incalculable.

HERBERT.

Sheffield is the next place in point of population, but I should think we had better first confine ourselves to the clothing towns of this county.

MRS. LESLIE.

I agree with you, and shall be happy to receive information of the town next in importance to Leeds.

HERBERT.

Bradford is a busy clothing town of Yorkshire, delightfully situated in the immediate vicinity of three romantic valleys, and commanding a picturesque prospect of the surrounding country. The manufactures of Bradford consist principally of mixed fabrics, such as merinoes, alpaccas, coburg cloths, damasks, moreens, and such like goods. The town contains nearly 104,000 inhabitants.

MARION.

Halifax is our next town, the manufactures of which are principally those of an elegant and decorative character, and consist of shawls, mantles, dresses, damask for furniture hangings, table-covers, &c.; but druggatings, linseys, coatings, and fancy checks, are also made. Halifax has a population of nearly 34,000.

HERBERT.

The situation of Halifax, in the immediate vicinity of several rivers, renders it peculiarly suitable for a manufacturing town; and it is to the woollen trade that its rise and importance are to be ascribed. About the middle of the fifteenth century but thirteen houses stood upon the site of that now extensive mart; but in the reign of Henry the Seventh, the Flemings settled there, and introduced the woollen manufacture, which soon raised the town to importance and prosperity.

MARION.

I read this morning of a law of great severity which formerly existed at Halifax for the protection of the manufacturers of woollen cloth. It was usual then, as it is now, you know, mamma, for the workmen to stretch the cloth on frames to dry; and it is related that the manufacturers were often robbed in the night of the cloth on which they had spent so much time and labour during the day; therefore, to punish offenders and be a warning to others, the magistrate was empowered to inflict capital punishment on any person who stole goods of greater value than thirteepence half-penny.

WILLIE.

How strange it was to fix on such a sum! I should think it was as bad to steal anything, if it were only worth thirteen pence, or even a shilling.

MRS. LESLIE.

Or you might say a smaller sum still, Willie; the crime would be the same.

KATE.

I should think the very severity of the sentence prevented the necessity for its infliction.

MARION.

It appears that, on an average, one execution took place every two years, for about a century before the law was abolished. On being convicted of the theft, the culprit was beheaded in the market-place on the next market-day. This cruel law was repealed in 1650.

MRS. LESLIE.

Huddersfield is a large well-built town on the river Colne, extensively engaged in the clothing trade. Its manufactures are of a very miscellaneous character, and are carried on with great spirit and enterprise. Trowserings, cloth for over-coats, damasks, table-covers, shawls, tweeds, and quiltings, are among the numerous fabrics made. Sewing cotton is also manufactured to a great

extent. The population of Huddersfield has more than doubled during the last few years, and is now about 31,000.

KATE.

Wakefield is another large town of Yorkshire, celebrated for the manufacture of woollen cloth and different kinds of worsted goods, and for its large corn market. Its population is upwards of 20,000. And now, mamma, I think we have come to the end of these uninteresting clothing towns.

MRS. LESLIE.

I am surprised you think it uninteresting, Katie, to know the places where the different materials for clothing are manufactured.

KATE.

Of course, mamma, I like to know all about such kind of things, but yet I like better to read and hear of places which have been the scene of great events.

MRS. LESLIE.

We must still speak of towns whose chief interest arises from their industrial pursuits. Sheffield, I believe, has not played any prominent part in the history of our country, unless it be that of adding to its commercial prosperity. Perhaps Marion can give us some information relative to this important town.

MARION.

Sheffield is a very ancient place, in the West Riding of Yorkshire. It was originally called Sheaf-field, from its being built upon some meadows by the river Sheaf. It is the oldest of our cutlery manufactures, and is now also greatly celebrated for silver-plated articles, and britannia metal goods. It has several foundries for iron, brass, and white metal; and the carpet manufacture is carried on to some extent. The population of Sheffield is upwards of 135,000.

MRS. LESLIE.

There was a little implement of warfare for which Sheffield was formerly very famous. Do you know to what I allude?

MARION.

No, mamma; I thought Birmingham was most noted for fire-arms.

MRS. LESLIE.

I did not mention fire-arms. The little weapon I mean was in use long before fire-arms were thought of. It was the pointed heads of arrows, for which Sheffield was so greatly famed. You know archery was at one time the most common mode of warfare.

WILLIE.

Do you mean the same kind of archery we once saw in Bushy Park?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, my love; only at the time of which I am speaking, instead of shooting at a target, their fellow creatures' heads were the marks at which the archers aimed.

MARION.

Yes; I remember at the battle of Cressy, in the reign of Edward the Third, it is said that the English owed their success to their superior skill in archery.

MRS. LESLIE.

And yet so intent is man on his fellow-man's destruction in the fearful art of war, that he was not long contented without the use of a more sure and deadly weapon. Gunpowder was invented, or at least brought to light, in the same reign, by Friar Bacon.

WILLIE.

Is Sheffield a pleasant place, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; it is delightfully situated on a gentle eminence, commanding a lovely prospect of hill and dale. It is, moreover, a handsome, well-built town, and is remarkable for the number of its charitable institutions. James Montgomery, who has been styled the "Christian poet," resided here the greatest part of his long life.

HERBERT.

The flourishing commercial-port of Hull is the next place that claims attention. Though now one of our most important maritime towns, at the period of the Norman survey it was not even mentioned in Doomsday book as a distinct place, but was included in the manor of Myton. It afterwards became a place of some note under the name of Wyke.

MARION.

I believe Hull dates its commercial importance from the reign of Edward the First.

MRS. LESLIE.

As early as the reign of John, the commerce of the little place was considerable; and a large trade was carried on in stockfish, which, it is said, was a source of great wealth to the inhabitants. Without doubt, however, its subsequent prosperity is to be attributed to the royal patronage of Edward, who, on his triumphant return from Scotland in 1296, was struck with the admirable situation of the place for the purposes of commerce. He therefore purchased the manor of Myton from the Abbot of the neighbouring monastery of Meaux, and conferred several privileges and immunities on the little town of Wyke, the name of which he changed to King's Town-upon-Hull. From that period its commercial prosperity has annually increased, and it is now only inferior in foreign commerce to three or four of our largest ports, while its inland trade is unsurpassed by any town in the kingdom. Hull has been greatly enlarged and improved during the last half century, and now contains about 85,000 inhabitants.

MARION.

Whitby is a sea-port town with a population of about 11,000. For many centuries it was only a small fishing village, but in the reign of Elizabeth some alum mines were discovered, which laid the foundation of its commercial prosperity.

KATE.

Doncaster is a place of great antiquity, and supposed by archæologists to have been the site of a Roman station. It has a population of about 12,000, and is now principally celebrated for its races.

MRS. LESLIE.

That it was a fortified place in the time of the Romans is evident from its name, Doncaster simply meaning a fortress on the River Don. Our time is too far expired for me to explain this fully now; next week we shall have to notice several instances of this particular termination.

MARION.

Scarborough is a celebrated fashionable watering-place, situated on the German Ocean. The neighbourhood abounds with natural curiosities, and the huge craggy cliffs near to the town are described as singularly sublime and picturesque. On a projecting eminence, 300 feet above the level of the sea, are the ruins of a venerable castle, so strongly built that before the invention of gunpowder it was absolutely impregnable.

KATE.

Scarborough is also celebrated for its mineral springs, is it not, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, it unites the advantages of a sea-bathing place with those derived from medicinal waters. It is a large and handsome town, and is much resorted to by visitors. Its population is nearly 13,000.

HERBERT.

Harrowgate is a fashionable inland watering-place, greatly famed for its medicinal springs. The place formerly consisted of

two villages, called High, and Low Harrowgate, but during the last fifty years so many new buildings have been erected, that the villages are brought so near to each other as to be regarded as one town, the united population of which is nearly 4000.

KATE.

I am glad you have left me to mention the ruins of Fountains Abbey near to Harrowgate, because I saw a painting of them some time ago, and it is so much more pleasant to talk about a place one has seen, if it be only in a picture. I never saw such a beautiful group of ruins. I should think, Herbert, they must surpass the ruins of Tintern Abbey, which you say are so picturesque. I have read that Fountains Abbey was formerly one of the largest monastic structures in the north of England, and to judge from what is left, it must have been a magnificent place indeed.

MRS. LESLIE.

You are right, Katie. Fountains Abbey was one of the most magnificent of the monastic edifices of England, and the ruins are unrivalled for extent, beauty, and the general idea they give the visitor of a religious establishment of olden time. There are still to be seen the cloisters, refectory, dormitory, church, chapter-house, dungeons, and several other apartments which were found in such buildings during the days of monkish superstition.

MARION.

Yorkshire possesses the ruins of several other monastic houses, the most celebrated of which are, those of the Abbeys of Kirkstall, Roche, Byland, and Rievaulx, and the priories of Bolton and Knaresborough.

HERBERT.

At Knaresborough, near to Harrowgate, is a remarkable natural curiosity, called "The Dropping Well," the water of which issues from a limestone rock near to the River Nid, and descends in a trickling form, and with a tinkling sound, into a basin or well beneath. This water has the remarkable property of petrifying

objects with which it comes in contact. Twigs of trees, tufts of grass, and various shrubs are to be seen in a beautiful state of petrification.

KATE.

What can it be that causes such a singular effect ?

MRS. LESLIE.

It is produced by a peculiar gritty or sparry matter in the water which incrusts the objects within its reach. We are now, my dear children, about to separate, and yet there is one place in this county of deep historical interest which has not been mentioned. It was greatly celebrated for its castle, which is said to have been the scene of more tragical events than any other fortress in England, with the exception of the Tower of London.

HERBERT.

But if the once mighty and gigantic castle of Pontefract has not been mentioned, it has not been through forgetfulness, mamma, but because we have had so many subjects before us, that we scarcely knew which to notice first. Katie, I know, will tell us what English monarch was imprisoned, and died, in Pontefract Castle.

KATE.

Richard the Second, after having been deposed, was confined there until his death. It is supposed that he was murdered by his guards with halberts.

WILLIE.

What are halberts, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

A halbert was a sort of long spear which was formerly used in war, but there is very little reason to believe that Richard met with a violent death at the hands of his jailors. Such was long the popular opinion ; but it is thought more probable that his death was the result of voluntary starvation.

WILLIE.

What had Richard done to cause him to be imprisoned, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

It is too late this morning to enter into particulars, but I may just tell you that he was not by any means a wise and good king. He preferred spending his time in foolish amusements, to seeking the good of his subjects; and he was at last so much disliked, that they would not have him for their king any longer, but shut him up in the gloomy old castle of Pontefract, or Pomfret, as it is sometimes called.

HERBERT.

Earl Rivers, Sir Thomas Vaughan, and Lord Grey, were beheaded at Pontefract, by order of the tyrant Richard the Third.

MRS. LESLIE.

They were, but time will not permit us to enter further upon the associations of this once stupendous stronghold; suffice it now to say that it was one of the largest and mightiest castles in England, and covered a space of nearly seven acres. It was entirely dismantled by Cromwell, and reduced to a heap of ruins. Scarcely any remnant of it now exists. The ruins of several ancient castles are still to be seen in different parts of this county, some of the most interesting of which are those of Conisbrough and Richmond.

KATE.

Oh! pray mamma, let me mention Captain James Cook before we separate. He was born at Marton, a village in the north riding of Yorkshire.

WILLIE.

What! the Captain Cook who sailed three times round the world? Oh! please mamma, let us hear of him. You know we saw his punch-bowl in the museum at Scotland Yard, when we were in London last winter.

MRS. LESLIE.

As you made such a profound acquaintance with his memory then, Willie, I suppose we must a little extend our time, for you to learn some of the incidents of his early history.

KATE.

Captain Cook was the son of a day-labourer, and at the age of thirteen was sent to school, where he learnt reading, writing, and a very little arithmetic; after which, he was apprenticed to a small shopkeeper at Snaith, a little town on the sea-coast. He very soon evinced a strong inclination for the sea, and to gratify his desire, his master was induced to give up his indentures. Young Cook then bound himself for three years to a shipowner at Whitby. At the commencement of the French war, in 1755, he entered the navy, and greatly distinguished himself by industry and skill.

MRS. LESLIE.

Very well remembered, Katie; perhaps Herbert can tell us some of the events of his subsequent career.

HERBERT.

This great navigator was celebrated for his abilities at the capture of Quebec, and assisted in the taking of Newfoundland. He explored New Zealand, Otaheite, New Holland; and, indeed, I cannot tell you half the places he visited. Government rewarded his services, by conferring on him the rank of post-captain in the Navy, and the appointment of captain in Greenwich Hospital. He discovered the Sandwich Islands, and was killed in a skirmish with the natives of Owhyhee.

KATE.

Poor Captain Cook! That was a sad termination to all his wonderful discoveries. If you remember, Willie, we saw in the museum at Scotland Yard part of the trunk of a tree from the spot where he was killed, and a stone axe with which a blow was aimed at him.

MRS. LESLIE.

I have been highly gratified, my dear children, by the amount of information each has given on the interesting county which has this morning claimed our attention. Much more might undoubtedly be added ; but yet I think our conversation has embraced the most celebrated places and events. Next week, our topic will be Lancashire, a county which will unfold to us peculiar and important features of interest and instruction.

CONVERSATION VI.



LANCASHIRE.

SUBJECTS: — Lancashire a rainy County. — Lancashire as it was and is. — “Lancashire Witches.” — Introduction of Potatoes. — Boundaries of County. — District of Furness. — Coniston Fell. — Mineral Productions. — Early Inhabitants. — Rivers. — Lancaster. — John of Gaunt. — County Palatine. — Castle. — Queen Victoria’s Visit. — County Jail. — Lancaster a Roman Station. — Liverpool. — Derivation of Name. — Exports and Imports. — Mrs. Hemans. — Stage Coach Travelling. — Railways. — Manchester a Roman Station. — Cotton Manufactures. — Introduction of Woollen Manufactures. — Sir Richard Arkwright. — First Cotton Mill. — “Cotton Lords.” — Density of Population. — Manchester Exhibition. — Ribchester. — Duke of Bridgewater’s Canal. — Celebrated Watering Places. — Lakes. — Furness Abbey. — Dissolution of Monasteries. — Monastic Houses now in England. — Religious Toleration.

“Do you know, mamma,” exclaimed Marion Leslie, as her mother joined the little party, “Herbert has just been reading that more rain falls in Lancashire than in any other county of England; what can be the reason?”

MRS. LESLIE.

I will endeavour to explain it to you, my dear, and first, we must consider from what rain proceeds.

WILLIE.

From the clouds, of course, mamma.

HERBERT.

And the clouds are formed from watery vapours, which are drawn upwards from the sea, and other waters, by the process of evaporation.

MRS. LESLIE.

Very well, Herbert, and now we must bear in mind, that the winds from the Atlantic bring with them abundance of those rain-clouds, which are prevented from passing over eastward by the Yorkshire hills, or part of the great Pennine chain, which you see extends along the eastern boundary of Lancashire, and separates it from Yorkshire. The rain-clouds thus intercepted discharge their contents on Lancashire, and this I have been informed causes the phenomenon you have mentioned.

MARION.

Thank you, mamma, that appears very plain.

HERBERT.

We have been very much interested the last week in tracing the wonderful progress that has taken place in the importance and prosperity of Lancashire, more particularly during the last century. Indeed, it appears to have been very far behind many other countries, even in civilisation, up to a comparatively recent period.

MARION.

Do, dear mamma, let me read an account of its condition at the commencement of the seventeenth century.

MRS. LESLIE.

By all means Marion, I shall be happy to hear it.

MARION.

Reads:—"At no remoter era than the age of the first Stuart, Lancashire was comparatively in a state of nature. Camden (the antiquary) approached its frontier with dread, and committed himself specially to the Divine protection on entering its tangled

wilda." Do you think such a statement can be really true, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

I have no doubt of its correctness in relation to many parts of the county; but of course we cannot apply it in its full extent to the whole. Towns we know existed, and manufactures also, some centuries before that period, but still, as Herbert truly says, it was very much behind many other places; although it seems difficult to realise the fact, when we think of the myriads of human beings who now daily throng the streets of the manufacturing districts, and the ceaseless activity of its principal port and railway.

HERBERT.

I have heard of "Lancashire witches," mamma. The notion of their existence would alone lead one to form a very low opinion as to the intelligence of the inhabitants at the time such an idea prevailed.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, this county was notorious in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, for entertaining the popular delusion of witchcraft, and many poor women were arraigned and tried at the assizes for the alleged crime. This superstition was very prevalent even after Lancashire had in some measure emerged from its obscurity; but was at last happily exploded by the progress of knowledge and science. The term "Lancashire witches" has of late years been applied as a compliment to the females of this county, on account of their personal charms.

KATE.

I should think it a very poor compliment to be called a witch, I am sure.

WILLIE.

I can tell you a vegetable, mamma, which we have at table every day, that was known in Lancashire before any other county in England. Can you guess what I mean?

MRS. LESLIE.

I think I shall not be very wrong if I say potatoes. Shall I, Willie?

WILLIE.

I declare, mamma, you know everything, it is of no use trying to puzzle you. And I dare say you know that they were brought from Virginia, in America, by Sir Walter Raleigh.

MRS. LESLIE.

Of course if I know everything, I must know that among the number; but you have a far too high opinion of your mother's knowledge, my little boy. There are a great many things I do not know, but I endeavour to gain information on any useful subject that is brought before me, and that is the way to improve. I am very glad to find that you have obtained some intelligence relating to this county. And now, I am sure Herbert will tell you when it was that potatoes were first brought to England, and what reception they met with.

HERBERT.

Sir Walter Raleigh brought them from America in 1565, and some were then immediately raised in Lancashire; but, like almost every other new discovery, they were received with much prejudice and opposition. Some people said they might be worth cultivating for pigs, but could not possibly be fit for human beings; and it was nearly a century before they came into general use and favour. An old writer speaks of them as a pleasant food boiled or roasted, and eaten with butter and sugar.

WILLIE.

I do not think I should like to eat sugar with them at all.

MRS. LESLIE.

Most likely not, because you have not been accustomed to do so. Katie, will you tell us the boundaries and size of Lancashire?

KATE.

It is bounded on the north by Cumberland and Westmoreland, on the east by Yorkshire, on the south by Cheshire, and on the west by the Irish Sea. It is about 64 miles long, and 45 miles broad. It has also a detached portion to the north-west of the county, called the district of Furness, a mountainous and rugged tract of land, about 24 miles in length, which is separated from the main land by Morecombe Bay, and a narrow strip of the county of Westmoreland.

MRS. LESLIE.

If you look on your map again, Katie, you will see that the district of Furness, although very mountainous at the northern part, is quite flat towards the south. It is thus divided into two parts, called Upper and Lower Furness.

MARION.

I think Coniston Fell, in the north of this district, is the most elevated mountain in Lancashire. It rises to a height of 2577 feet.

MRS. LESLIE.

You are right, Marion; and now tell us some of the mineral productions of the county.

MARION.

The principal is coal, of various kinds, but it has also some iron mines. The mountains of Furness abound in blue slate and free-stone; flag stones and pipe-clay are also found in different parts of Lancashire.

MRS. LESLIE.

I find that the quantity of coal, raised in Lancashire, in 1856, was nearly 9,000,000 of tons, and of iron ore 465,000 tons. The amount of pig iron manufactured in this county and Cumberland, in the same year, was 25,530 tons.

HERBERT.

The earliest inhabitants of Lancashire of whom there is any

record were the Brigantes; on their conquest by the Romans the county formed part of the province of Maxima Cæsariensis, and during the Saxon Heptarchy it was partly included in the kingdom of Northumberland, and partly in that of the west Saxons.

MRS. LESLIE.

We look to you, Willie, as usual, to tell us the names of the principal rivers, and of the county town.

WILLIE.

The chief rivers are the Mersey, the Ribble, the Lon or Lune, the Irwell, and the Duddon. The county town is Lancaster, on the river Lon or Lune.

HERBERT.

Lancaster is supposed to have been a Roman station, and though its early history is exceedingly obscure, it must have been considered of more importance than any other town, as it gives the name to the county.

KATE.

I do not think it is at all an interesting place from what little I have read about it.

MRS. LESLIE.

Other towns in Lancashire now claim precedence in interest and importance certainly, but it was once a considerable port, and there is one historical record connected with Lancaster which we must not omit to mention. It relates to the celebrated John of Gaunt. Which of you can tell me to what circumstance I allude?

KATE.

I know he was the son of Edward the Third, and that he was called Duke of Lancaster; but I do not know how he came to have that title.

HERBERT.

During the French wars that Edward was engaged in, Henry Plantagenet the Earl of Derby, very much distinguished himself, and was created Duke of Lancaster by that monarch, who also

made Lancashire a county palatine in his favour. John of Gaunt, Edward's son, afterwards married Blanche the daughter of the Duke, and upon the death of his father-in-law succeeded him as Duke of Lancaster.

MRS. LESLIE.

Very good, Herbert. And now let us speak of the castle, which, in ancient as well as modern times, has been considered an object of the first interest in the town of Lancaster.

MARION.

The present castle appears to have been founded in the reign of William Rufus, but is said, as well as the town itself, to have owed its chief importance to Edward the Third, and John of Gaunt, as the latter maintained an establishment and household suitable to the dignity and privileges of a petty king.

MRS. LESLIE.

Which of course must greatly have increased the prosperity of the surrounding neighbourhood. The castle occupies an elevated and commanding position, and is a stately massive structure, having several towers of different dates of erection. The gateway tower, which forms the chief entrance, is a fine appendage to the noble pile. It is said to have been built by John of Gaunt, and is surmounted by a turret commonly called "John of Gaunt's chair," which commands extensive and diversified views of the surrounding country. And here we have to notice a royal visit, which I am sure you will all regard with greater interest than any that has yet been mentioned.

HERBERT.

Yes, that we shall, mamma, for I know you allude to the visit of our own dear Queen.

MRS. LESLIE.

I do, my dear, and as British subjects we cannot but rejoice at the interest in the welfare of her people, which is manifested by her Majesty in her visits to the different parts of her dominions.

The royal visit of 1851, when the Queen, the Prince Albert, and some of the royal children, honoured the principal places in this county with inspection, was considered not only a mark of royal condescension, but a most convincing proof of the interest felt by her Majesty in the industrial classes of her realm. It is scarcely necessary to say that the reception which everywhere greeted the royal party was loyal and enthusiastic in the extreme, and emanated from affectionate and devoted hearts.

HERBERT.

I have an account here of her Majesty's visit to the castle of Lancaster, and of her inspection of the different towers. Her ascent to John of Gaunt's chair is particularly mentioned; as to arrive at it she had to ascend a narrow stone staircase, the very contemplation of which, it is said, would have daunted some of her less persevering subjects.

MRS. LESLIE.

Very true, Herbert. Our good Queen often sets her subjects an example of energy and perseverance, as well as of many other virtues. I doubt not, in the instance you have adduced, the magnificent prospect from the summit of the tower amply repaid her for the inconvenience of the ascent.

MARION.

I believe the castle is now used as the county prison.

MRS. LESLIE.

It is, and is considered the grandest and most complete of any in the kingdom. It is stated that the additions and improvements which have been made to it have cost nearly 140,000*l*. The trade of the town is not very considerable, and its population is about 15,000.

KATE.

Marion spoke of the castle, as the *present* castle. Is there any mention of a former one? I like to go back to the very earliest history of each place.

MRS. LESLIE.

These conversations will make you quite an antiquary, Katie! There appears to be no doubt that the town was fortified, even in the time of the Romans; as the termination *ceastre*, or *caster*, was applied by the Saxons only to places they found fortified when they subjugated Britain. The first syllable is a corruption of the word Lon or Lune. Thus the name Lancaster denotes a fortress on the river Lune. And here we must leave the county town, and proceed to notice the busy and flourishing port of Liverpool.

HERBERT.

I fear, I cannot entirely gratify your antiquarian predilections, Katie, by giving an undisputed derivation of its name, as I find there are so many different opinions on the subject; but the one most generally received, is, that it was originally called *Lyr pul*, which in ancient British means the port of the Mersey, on which river Liverpool is situate. It was formerly nothing more than a small fishing village; but it appears to have been a place of some consequence in the reign of Henry the Eighth, as a writer of that period relates that, "it was a paved town when he visited it, and much resorted to by Irish merchants."

MRS. LESLIE.

It must very soon afterwards have suffered a considerable decline, as by the town record of 1565, it appears that the number of householders and cottagers was only 138; and in a petition to Queen Elizabeth, it is styled "her Majesty's poor decayed town of Liverpool." Towards the end of her reign, it appears that it began to rise from its depression, and I need not tell you is now considered the largest and most important commercial port of the British empire. It contains a population of about 376,000.

KATE.

Do you know, mamma, what is the cause of the present prosperity of Liverpool?

MRS. LESLIE.

Many causes might be assigned, such as its natural position as a port, commanding, as it does, the trade of Ireland and America ; the numerous extensive manufactures in its vicinity, its extensive docks for shipping, which for extent and solidity are unrivalled in the world ; its railways ; and, above all, the spirit and enterprise of its inhabitants. And now tell me some of the articles of commerce that are exported from Liverpool ?

KATE.

It exports immense quantities of the manufactured goods of England ; such as earthenware, cutlery, hardware, cotton and woollen goods, as well as large quantities of salt, and some coal. It imports cotton, wool, linen, tea, sugar, tallow, tobacco, and a variety of other goods.

WILLIE.

Indeed, mamma, I do not understand what you and Katie have been saying about all those things you have mentioned.

MRS. LESLIE.

That is because you do not know the meaning of the terms *export* and *import* : I must try to make it plain to you. You know a great many things we use are brought to England from foreign countries.

WILLIE.

Oh ! yes, I know that, mamma. Tea comes from China, and sugar from the West Indies.

MRS. LESLIE.

Well, then, my dear, anything that is brought to this country from abroad, is said to be *imported*, and the goods we send to other lands are *exported*. Thus we *import*, or receive from, foreign parts, tea, sugar, tallow, &c., and we *export*, or send to other countries, the goods which are found or made in England, over and above what we require for our own use. I think you understand it now ?

WILLIE.

Yes, I thank you, mamma, I am sure I shall never forget the meaning of the words import and export.

MRS. LESLIE.

And you will remember that a port is the place where the goods are received from other lands, or sent out from our own. Liverpool is a very celebrated port.

HERBERT.

This was one of the places where our Queen was most enthusiastically greeted by all classes of her subjects, on the occasion of the visit to which we have referred. It was the first royal visit that the town had received since the reign of William the Third, 160 years before, and the reception she met with was characterised by genuine loyalty and deep devotion. It would be highly interesting to follow the royal party in their route did time permit, but we have much to engage our attention in connection with this county.

MRS. LESLIE.

True, Herbert. And now suppose we leave the busy scenes which the contemplation of this flourishing commercial town presents, to dwell for a few minutes upon the memory of a highly-gifted Christian poetess, who owned it for her birthplace. I mean Felicia Hemans.

MARION.

You astonish me, mamma. I always thought Mrs. Hemans was born in Wales.

MRS. LESLIE.

Your impression was erroneous, and yet I do not much wonder at your entertaining it; as she removed to Wales at such an early period, that, as her biographer tells us, "her heart clung to its mountains, and its waters, its bards and its hamlets, as if it were indeed her own land."

KATE.

Will you tell us all you know about her? .

MRS. LESLIE.

Most willingly, my dear. Felicia Dorothea Browne (that was her maiden name) was born at Liverpool, September 25th, 1793. In early life she was gifted with beauty, vivacity, and genius, and some of her youthful productions gave promise of that superior intellectual ability and deep feeling which in after life she so eminently displayed. At the age of nineteen, she was united to Captain Hemans, of the 4th Regiment; but vicissitudes and sorrows led her to feel that this was not her rest. In six years she was separated from her husband, never to meet again.

WILLIE.

Oh dear! That was very sad.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, it must have been a great grief to a spirit gentle and loving as her own; but trials are sometimes permitted for our good, and I doubt not such was the case in the present instance.

MARION.

I do not know any poetry I really love so much as Mrs. Hemans'. I do not say admire, that does not seem the word to express my feeling.

MRS. LESLIE.

Her poems are, indeed, exquisitely and touchingly beautiful; and the tone of earnest piety which pervades some of her productions constitutes, in my opinion, their highest charm. One instance of real good arising from her labours, that is related, must have been to her a rich reward.

KATE.

Pray let us hear it, mamma.

MRS. LESLIE.

One day, just as she was recovering from a severe illness, a gentleman called at her house in Dublin, where she was then re-

siding, and requested to see her. He was informed that she was not sufficiently convalescent to receive visitors, but he entreated so earnestly for an interview, that he was at last admitted. He then, with the deepest feeling, informed her, that he was under Providence indebted to her for a faith and hope more precious to him than life itself; and explained that he had formerly been inclined to infidelity, but that her poem of "The Sceptic" had shaken his unbelief, and led him to "search the Scriptures," which had happily resulted in his entire conviction of their truth.

KATE.

That must have made her very happy.

MRS. LESLIE.

It must, indeed. And now, in following Mrs. Hemans to the closing scenes of her earthly pilgrimage, we have only to remark that the Christian principles and hopes which had animated and inspired her in the midst of her life trials, sustained her to the end; and in perfect reliance on the Atonement of her Saviour, on the 16th of May, 1835, she entered into that "Better Land," of whose glories she had so sweetly sung below.

KATE.

Thank you, mamma. That is a very interesting account indeed.

HERBERT.

You mentioned the railways, mamma, as one of the causes of the present prosperity of Liverpool. I have an account here which shows the rate of travelling formerly. In 1770, the stage coach "Diligence" used to start from Manchester at six o'clock in the morning, and after breakfasting at Irlam, dining at Warrington, and taking tea at Prescott, the passengers reached Liverpool, a distance of thirty-six miles, at nightfall. I suppose the journey is accomplished now in little more than an hour.

KATE.

How tedious travelling must have been to men of business when there were no railways.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, as with every other modern invention, we are inclined to wonder how the commercial transactions of life were ever carried on at all without them.

MARION.

I think the railway between Manchester and Liverpool was one of the first that was constructed. It was opened in 1830.

MRS. LESLIE.

That was one of the first made for the conveyance of passengers ; but railways on a limited scale, and of a rude construction, had existed in the collieries of Northumberland and Durham for upwards of two centuries, and greatly facilitated the transit of coal, although they were only worked by horse power, instead of the amazing force of steam. I think, my dear children, we cannot now do better than transport ourselves, by a quicker agency even than that of steam, to the manufacturing town of Manchester. Look on your map, Willie, and tell me near what rivers it is situated.

WILLIE.

It seems to be close to the Irwell.

MRS. LESLIE.

It is on the borders of both the Irwell and the Medlock.

HERBERT.

I suppose the Romans had a station here, too, mamma, as the Saxons called the place Manceaster, from whence its present name is corrupted.

MRS. LESLIE.

There is no doubt of it, I think. Julius Agricola, the Roman

governor of Britain, erected various fortresses to secure his conquests, one of which was called Mancunium. This circumstance, united with the termination of the name the Saxons gave the town we are considering, as well as the Roman antiquities found there, is certainly sufficient evidence to prove that it was formerly a Roman station. The original town is said to have been destroyed by the Danes, but subsequently restored by Edward the Elder, about the year 920. But as nothing very interesting intervenes, I think we must omit further notice of it, until the rise of the cotton manufacture, for which Manchester has such a world-wide reputation; and in speaking of that successful branch of industry, we must notice not only the town of Manchester, but make a circuit of several miles around, and include within it Bolton, Bury, Rochdale, Staley Bridge, Stockport in Cheshire, and several other places, and almost regard the whole as one huge factory. Can either of you mention the circumstance which gave rise to the first manufactures in this district?

MARION.

When Edward the Third, whom we have frequently mentioned, married his good queen, Philippa of Hainault, the intercourse between England and the Netherlands greatly increased; and the king invited a great number of Flemish weavers, who were very badly treated in Flanders, to settle in this country, and thus they set up the manufacture of woollen cloth in different parts. Bolton, a few miles from Manchester, was the first place where they settled in Lancashire; but though woollen cloth was the first manufacture, the foundation of the cotton trade may then be said to have been laid, and in the reign of Henry the Eighth it is recorded that the making of woollen, linen, and cotton cloth was carried on there.

MRS. LESLIE.

Very good. It is, however, within the last century that the cotton manufacture has made such gigantic and rapid strides, and proved a source of such immense wealth to England. I think you

have statistics, Herbert, to show how greatly it has increased within the time I name.

HERBERT.

My account goes back to 1781, in which year the quantity of cotton imported into Great Britain was 5,198,778 lbs.; while in 1850, the cotton consumed in Manchester alone was upwards of 770,000,000 lbs., or about 1000 tons per day. And here, I think, mamma, honourable mention should be made of Sir Richard Arkwright, whose invention for spinning cotton by machinery is considered to have been the first step that raised the manufactures of Manchester to their present flourishing condition.

MRS. LESLIE.

You are right, Herbert. The name of Arkwright will ever be a "household word" in connection with the cotton manufacture of this country. His inventions and improvements in the machinery for spinning cotton, towards the close of the last century, together with the discoveries of Hargrave, Crompton, and Watt, so greatly facilitated the manufacture, and gave such an impetus to this branch of industry, that it has risen to a height it never could have reached by any other means. But what do you know of the early life of Richard Arkwright?

HERBERT.

He was the youngest of thirteen children, and received very little education; his parents being poor people, living at Preston, in this county. He was brought up to the trade of a barber, and continued at it until he was thirty years of age. He afterwards went about the country as a dealer in hair, and having become acquainted with a clockmaker at Warrington, by the exercise of his own inventive faculties, and the aid of the clockmaker's knowledge of mechanism, he constructed the famous spinning frame which has immortalised his name.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, Richard Arkwright is an instance of what may be done by

industry, application, and steady perseverance. He contended with poverty, malevolence, and the combined opposition of every class of men in Lancashire, but yet bravely overcame them all. At a place called Birkacre, his first cotton mill was attacked and burned to the ground by those who fancied his machines would be the ruin of the operatives of Manchester. But he continued steady to his purpose, and at length received his well-deserved reward — an ample fortune, and a rank among the benefactors of mankind in the estimation of his fellow-men.

WILLIE.

I know, mamma, what Herbert meant by the quantity of cotton which is imported. He meant brought to this country from abroad.

MRS. LESLIE.

I am glad to find you have remembered what I told you, and also to see that you have paid attention to what we have since been speaking of, as I must admit that some of our topics are not very interesting to a little boy. And now, do you know what cotton is, and where it comes from?

WILLIE.

Yes, mamma, I have learnt that it is a soft downy substance, found in the pods of the cotton-plant, which is cultivated in the East and West Indies, America, and Egypt. I once saw the picture of a cotton plantation, with black women and children working in it.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, they were picking cotton, which is afterwards packed in heavy bales and sent to England, when it is taken to immense factories, and made into calicoes, muslins, printed cottons, and other useful fabrics for clothing. I cannot attempt, my dear children, to give you any idea of the process by which the raw material is converted into the different kinds of manufactured goods, for it must be seen to be clearly understood. I hope, at no

very distant period, your papa will indulge you with a visit to some of these vast emporiums of industry and skill.

HERBERT.

Oh! thank you, mamma, for I know you mean to ask him to do so. I think I should enjoy as much pleasure, in inspecting the different manufactories of England, as I did in riding about the Welsh mountains last summer, though of course it would be pleasure of a different kind.

MARION.

The great manufacturers of Manchester are sometimes called "Cotton Lords," I think.

MRS. LESLIE.

They are. Their immense wealth and the position of vast influence which they occupy, as employers of the teeming population of the surrounding districts, combine to raise them to the aristocracy of commerce, if I may be allowed the expression which the term "Cotton Lords" seems to suggest. There are, in the district of Lancashire and Cheshire, between 500 and 600 cotton mills, which are owned by nearly a thousand of these influential and wealthy proprietors. The ancestors of the present Sir Robert Peel established several print works at Bury, and thus rose to eminence and fortune.

MARION.

It was in Peel Park that the children of the Manchester and Salford Schools sung the National Anthem, on the arrival of her Majesty and royal party in that district. It must have been an animating scene.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, and I have no doubt a most gratifying one to the feelings of our excellent Sovereign: 80,000 children, invoking in thrilling accents blessings on her head, could not, I think, have been listened to without emotion, even by one so much accustomed to homage as herself. A beautiful colossal statue of her Majesty now adorns that lovely park. It was inaugurated by the Prince Consort, on

the day after the opening of the Manchester Art Treasures Exhibition, which took place on the 5th of May, 1857.

An English philanthropist has reason to rejoice in the establishment of such an exhibition in that great seat of manufacturing industry, as it will no doubt tend greatly to refine and elevate the minds of the masses of the people, and thus be the means of restraining them from vicious and debasing pursuits.

WILLIE.

Are you going to tell us anything about her Majesty's second visit to Manchester, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

No, my dear; time forbids us to enter upon that interesting visit, nor must I enter upon those treasures of art, which are so well deserving royal patronage. I may just observe, however, that Manchester is now as greatly renowned as an emporium of art, as it has long been of manufacturing industry.

KATE.

I have heard that the streets of Manchester are so thickly thronged with men, women, and children, of a morning and evening, as they go to and return from the factories, that one might almost walk on their heads.

MRS. LESLIE.

We can scarcely consider that an exaggerated statement, when we think of the immense population of Manchester and the surrounding district.

At the last census Manchester alone contained upwards of 400,000 inhabitants; Salford, its northern suburb, 85,000, while the towns and villages around are so thickly peopled, that the mention of their numbers would seem absolutely incredible in an agricultural district. As we proceed with our investigations of the different counties of our native land, you will be astonished to find what myriads of our fellow creatures are daily toiling to

procure for us the comforts and conveniences of life, in the different departments of industry for which our country is so justly celebrated. We have reason to rejoice that of late years so much has been done to ameliorate and improve their condition, by wise and humane legislation forbidding undue hours of labour, and other evils; as well as by the manufacturers themselves, in the building of cottages, and establishment of schools.

HERBERT.

The establishment of manufactures must be a source of vast wealth and importance to a country.

MRS. LESLIE.

You are right. We may form some idea of the importance of Manchester from its postal communication. I am informed that about 16,000,000 letters are now annually posted in that town alone: as many as in the whole empire of Russia.

HERBERT.

Is it possible, mamma? Such a statement is indeed calculated to convey some idea of the relative activity of that vast empire, and our own little isle.

MARION.

The village of Ribchester in this county, although not possessing any modern features of importance, is a place very interesting to the lovers of archæology from the numerous Roman relics that have been found, and the indisputable evidence it possesses of its having been a great military station.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, its name denotes that it was a Roman fortress, and the remains that have been brought to light by excavation prove also that it was a town of great luxury and elegance. Two Roman roads, in the immediate vicinity, still bear testimony to the skill and energy of that enterprising people.

MARION.

Your mention of the Roman roads reminds me of an undertaking, no less stupendous, which has been accomplished in this county in modern times. I allude to the Duke of Bridgewater's canal, constructed by that eminent engineer, James Brindley, who was a native of Wormhill in Derbyshire. This gigantic work, which is ninety-three miles long and has five tunnels, extends from Worsley, the estate of the duke, to Manchester, and from thence to the river Mersey, and has contributed vastly to the commercial prosperity of Manchester, and indeed of the whole kingdom.

MRS. LESLIE.

Very good. Have either of you anything else to mention before we bid adieu to Lancashire?

KATE.

Lytham, Blackpool, Fleetwood, and Southport, are delightful watering-places which have risen to note in modern times.

Lake Windermere, which we noticed as being partly in Westmoreland, belongs to Lancashire as well. It is between the two counties; and Coniston Lake, in the district of Furness, is nearly six miles long, and celebrated for its beautiful scenery.

MARION.

You remind me of the magnificent ruins of Furness Abbey, which are considered among the most beautiful of the monastic remains of England. The abbey was of Norman architecture, the windows and arches being built upon a scale of unusual loftiness and elegance. The ruins are very considerable; and are everywhere enriched by a variety of climbing and creeping plants, which greatly contribute to their picturesque beauty. The whole of the scenery of that secluded spot is spoken of as singularly and strikingly lovely.

KATE.

I wonder how long it is since these beautiful old abbeys were used for religious worship?

MRS. LESLIE.

At the Reformation, Henry VIII. broke up all the monastic establishments of England, and thus gave a death blow to the Roman Catholic religion. In by far the greater number of instances, the inmates of a monastery or convent led corrupt and dissolute lives, and thought to atone for their sins by the performance of a round of unmeaning duties, and submission to self-inflicted austerities. One of the blessings for which we cannot be too thankful, when contemplating the past and present condition of England is, that nationally the errors of popish superstition have passed away, and that Protestant truth so extensively prevails.

KATE.

But there are nunneries in England now, mamma; for I remember some time ago hearing a gentleman tell papa of one which had been erected at Princethorpe in Warwickshire. He said he had been over it, in company with a person who was formerly a monk, and I know I felt so shocked to hear him describe the narrow gloomy cells, which were made for the nuns to do penance in, when they had transgressed the rules of their order.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, in 1851 there were no fewer than seventeen monasteries and fifty-three nunneries in England, containing, I am informed, more than 500 monks and 1,500 nuns: but although we must deplore the existence of monastic houses in the present day, we have reason to rejoice that they are only tolerated, not upheld, by our country.

MARION.

But do you not think, mamma, that it is an error in a Protestant government to allow of their existence at all?

MRS. LESLIE.

You know, my dear, one of the fundamental principles of our constitution is civil and religious liberty, which allows every person to worship God according to the dictates of his own con-

science. Roman Catholics have as much right to toleration in their religious establishments as we have in ours, provided they do not infringe the laws of the land ; but there is reason to fear that in some, if not many instances, undue influences have been exerted in order to induce young and inexperienced females, possessed of property, to enter nunneries with a view to obtain their wealth, and subsequently to detain them against their will. It is much to be desired, that such establishments should be subjected to magisterial supervision ; in a similar manner to that now adopted with reference to our lunatic asylums. Various facts similar to those I have referred to having come to light, the people of England, to a great extent, are impressed with the opinion that there is a necessity for such inspection ; and I am happy to say, petitions to parliament are in course of signature, for the purpose of bringing about this desirable object.

I am happy, again, my dear children, to express my entire satisfaction with your attention ; and shall have much pleasure, next week, to talk to you a little about Cheshire.

CONVERSATION VII.



CHESHIRE.

SUBJECTS :—Boundaries.—Size.—Ancient Inhabitants.—Palatinate of Chester. — Natural Features. — Mineral Productions. — Duckinfield Coal-Pit. — City of Chester. — Chester “ Rows.” — Chester a Roman Station. — Invasion of Danes. — Alfred the Great. — Ethelfleda. — Siege of Chester. — Amazonian Females. — Ancient Castle. — Norman Nobles. — Curious Anecdote. — Cathedral. — City Walls. — Rivers of County. — Salt Towns. — Important Cheese District. — Great Marston Salt Mine. — Ball held there. — Method of procuring Salt. — Salt an inestimable Treasure. — Extract from the Pen of Mungo Park. — Singular Appearance of Northwich. — Brine Springs. — Quantity of Salt produced in the County. — Stockport. — Macclesfield. — Increase of Manufactures. — Birkenhead and other rising Towns.

“ OH ! mamma, what a dark, dismal-looking picture ! ” exclaimed Willie Leslie, as he leant over a table on which a large engraving was out-spread. “ Is this one of the pictures that papa said he had brought from London, to make our conversation on Cheshire more interesting ? I cannot think there is anything very interesting about that ; for it only looks like a large dark place, with some of the walls black, and others white. There are some spots of white about the black walls, that look like stars shining of a dark night, but I am sure no one can say that it is a pretty picture ! ”

“ It does not look very *attractive*, certainly, my love,” replied his mother, “ but yet I expect, before the morning is over, you will find that a thing may be very *interesting*, without being at all

pretty. But here are your sisters, and Herbert; perhaps one of them can tell you what this dismal-looking picture represents."

HERBERT.

Oh! yes, mamma, it must be a Cheshire salt mine. How very kind of papa to think of bringing it!

MRS. LESLIE.

You see, my dear children, your papa is desirous to express his approbation of your diligence in the pursuit of useful knowledge, by adding to the means you possess of acquiring it; and certainly there is nothing that can convey such a good idea of any place under consideration, as an accurate descriptive illustration. But we must lay aside this representation of a salt mine for the present, and shall be glad, Katie, for you to tell us the boundaries and size of Cheshire.

KATE.

Cheshire is bounded on the north by Lancashire; on the south by Shropshire; on the east by Staffordshire and Derbyshire; and on the west by the Irish Sea, Flintshire and Denbighshire. The greatest extent of the county from north to south is about thirty miles, and its extreme breadth fifty-eight miles.

MARION.

Before the invasion of the Romans, this county was inhabited by a British tribe, called Cornavii. On its subjugation by the Romans, it was comprehended in the extensive province termed Flavia Cæsariensis, and, during the Saxon Heptarchy, formed part of the kingdom of Mercia.

MRS. LESLIE.

Cheshire was formerly a county palatine. History informs us that at the Norman Conquest, "William the Conqueror gave Hugh d'Avranches, commonly called Hugh Lupus, the whole county of Chester, to hold as freely by the sword, as he himself held England by the crown."

KATE.

Hugh Lupus, mamma! the first Norman earl of Chester: I saw his sword in the British Museum when I last went to London with papa. It was such a curious looking thing, with a gilt handle inlaid with pearl. Do you think that was the very sword by which he maintained his authority in the county of Chester?

MRS. LESLIE.

I have no doubt of its being the very sword which was the emblem, or badge, of his authority, by its being preserved in our national museum; but of course you do not understand that punishment was inflicted by any particular sword, but that a sword was merely a badge of power. It is a very ancient emblem of authority. You remember St. Paul says, when speaking of a magistrate or ruler, "He beareth not the sword in vain."

HERBERT.

I think the palatinate of Chester did not long exist.

MRS. LESLIE.

It was annulled in the reign of Henry the Third. The influence and power of the earls of Chester had then become too great for subjects to possess with safety to the realm. Henry, therefore, wrested the earldom from its former possessors, and annexed it to the crown. Since that time, one of the titles of the reigning sovereign's eldest son is Earl of Chester.

KATE.

Then, of course, our own Prince of Wales is Earl of Chester.

MRS. LESLIE.

Certainly, my dear. And now, Herbert, will you give us some description of the general aspect of this county?

HERBERT.

It is not by any means celebrated for picturesque scenery, particularly in the central part, where it is very flat. The whole

county, however, is distinguished by the name of the Vale Royal of England, which is supposed to have been given from the abbey of Vale Royal, which was founded by Edward the First, on the river Weaver. The only important mineral productions of Cheshire, are coal and salt. In 1856, 754,327 tons of coal were procured from the mines of this county.

MRS. LESLIE.

Cheshire, in all probability, will soon yield a more abundant supply of that valuable commodity. The sinking of the shaft of the great Duckinfield coal pit has just been accomplished, after twelve years' labour, and a cost of nearly 100,000*l*. This extraordinary pit, which is 2401 feet in depth, is the deepest in Great Britain, and probably in the world. Now, Willie, tell us for what Cheshire is particularly celebrated.

WILLIE.

For cheese and salt. Chester is the capital, on the river Dee.

KATE.

Since you called me an antiquary last week, mamma, I thought I would try and deserve the honourable appellation; therefore have found out for myself that the city of Chester is a very ancient place. It was called Deva by the Romans, and was long occupied by them as an important military station. Chester gives the name to the county, which was formerly called Chestershire.

MRS. LESLIE.

Very good, Katie! I think I must bestow upon you some more learned titles, if their possession stimulates you to endeavour to deserve them. But can you tell us anything more about this fine old city?

KATE.

I ought to be able to do so, in order to sustain my character, dear mamma, for it is said to be one of the most interesting places in Great Britain to the antiquary, from its ancient walls and

monuments, many of which are still in excellent preservation. There is something very curious about the architecture of the old houses, but I do not quite understand how they are constructed.

MRS. LESLIE.

I will endeavour to give you a clear idea of the peculiarity to which you allude. The ground floor of the houses, on a level with the street, is occupied by shops and warehouses as in any other city. The floor above, instead of containing apartments belonging to the houses, is a public thoroughfare, consisting of a long running gallery or arcade, open in front and balustraded, and which formerly extended from street to street throughout the city. These galleries are called "rows." In the streets below, are flights of steps at stated distances leading to them. The upper stories of the houses project somewhat over the "rows" in front.

HERBERT.

That must be an uncommonly convenient style of architecture, for on a rainy day a pedestrian would only have to ascend to one of those rows, and he could then go from one part of the city to the other under shelter!

MRS. LESLIE.

In ancient times, no doubt he could have done so, but intervening modern architecture would prevent his making any extended perambulations in that manner at the present day. There are but three rows now existing in Chester: the Eastgate, Watergate, and Bridge Street. Many of the shops in these rows are exceedingly handsome, although I am informed that some fifty years ago "there was scarcely a shop that could boast a glass window." The fronts were all open.

MARION.

Do you know, mamma, what was the reason for such a singular method of building?

MRS. LESLIE.

It has been supposed that the "rows" were erected in order to enable the citizens to protect themselves against a sudden in-

vasion of cavalry. It is said that formerly there was a street at Bridgenorth, in Shropshire, with a similar gallery extending along it; and these, I believe, are the only places in which this style of architecture was ever known in England.

HERBERT.

There appears to be no doubt that Chester, or Deva as it was then called, was fortified in the time of the Romans, and the tessellated pavements, Roman altars, and baths which have been discovered, denote that it was a place of considerable refinement and civilisation at that early period. After the Romans had left this country, Chester was taken possession of by the ancient Britons, and is said to have been, with the exception of Cornwall, the last stronghold that surrendered to the Saxon power. It was one of the places which suffered severely from the invasion of the Danes, in the reign of Alfred the Great, who besieged, and finally defeated them. I always feel so angry when I think how those northern pirates harassed and tried the patience of my favourite king.

MRS. LESLIE.

Such is a very natural feeling, Herbert, but yet I think admiration of the humane and magnanimous conduct of their noble conqueror absorbs every other feeling in my mind. Of all the wise and virtuous actions recorded of the illustrious Alfred, there is none that sheds a brighter lustre on his reign than his merciful treatment of his fallen and captive foes.

WILLIE.

I know how kindly Alfred treated the Danes, mamma; instead of killing or making slaves of them, as many kings in those days used to do when their enemies were in their power, he did not punish them at all, but told them they might live comfortably in England if they would be good and obedient subjects.

MRS. LESLIE.

I am glad you have remembered it so well, my love, for it is a long time since I told you the story of the good king Alfred. I

think one of your sisters can tell you now something of Alfred's daughter, Ethelfleda, in connection with the city of Chester.

MARION.

Yes, mamma ; the city was restored by Ethelfleda after it had lain in ruins for twelve years, in consequence of the dreadful depredations of the Danes. Do you know, Willie, I have read that she was such a warlike and valiant woman, that the titles of lady and queen were thought to be quite beneath her dignity and greatness ; and, therefore, she was distinguished by those of lord and king.

KATE.

I suppose she thought that a high honour ; but in our days I think ladies would consider it a very poor compliment to be thought of such a masculine disposition. I am sure, for one, I should not like it to be said my conduct was more like a boy's than a girl's.

MRS. LESLIE.

Very true, Katie ; such notoriety would certainly be far from agreeable ; but as I have told you before, in those times masculine tastes and pursuits, in ladies of the highest rank, were not thought at all incompatible with feminine propriety.

WILLIE.

Can you tell us anything more about Ethelfleda ?

MRS. LESLIE.

We shall frequently have to speak of her in our conversations on the counties which formerly belonged to the Saxon kingdom of Mercia, as her husband was earl of that province ; but I may just tell you now, that she was a very learned woman for those days, her father, Alfred, having taken great pains with her education ; and it is said that some of the wisest acts of her brother, Edward the elder, were owing to her good advice. She seemed to think more of the welfare of her country than of anything beside, and devoted her time almost entirely to warlike pursuits ; repairing cities and erecting castles.

HERBERT.

I suppose the Amazonian example of the Saxon princess was handed down to the females of Chester, who lived in later times, as it is related that they very greatly distinguished themselves for courage and bravery during the memorable siege of the city in the reign of Charles the First.

MARION.

I think the people of Chester were staunch royalists, were they not, Herbert?

HERBERT.

They were; and for their firm adherence to the king's cause, were involved in all the horrors of a siege. The poor king came in person to Chester, hoping by his presence to animate the garrison to hold out to the uttermost, but, seeing the desperate emergency of the case, quickly left it, after giving directions to the governor to surrender in eight days if he saw no prospect of success. Sir William Brereton, the general of the parliamentarians, invested the place with the most determined vigour, and his army succeeded in scaling the walls, and destroying many of the fortifications. At this crisis, it is said that the women of Chester set to work with a firm resolution to repair the yielding walls, or perish in the attempt; and for the space of ten days they continued their matchless undertaking, although several were slain at their post. The city, after having been bravely defended for twenty weeks, was at last obliged to surrender to the parliamentarians.

KATE.

Then the labour of the women was lost after all. How strange those female masons must have looked at work in the midst of soldiers!

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; their engaging in such a manual undertaking was doubtless a mistake, although sanctioned by the custom of the age. Happily for England, *home* is now considered woman's proper sphere, and domestic duties and influences her true vocation. But

I think there are some interesting reminiscences of this city prior to the time of Charles the First. Can either of you tell me anything about its ancient castle?

MARION.

It was rebuilt and considerably enlarged by William the Conqueror, and maintained in a style of princely magnificence by Hugh d'Avranches. It is related that his retinue consisted of eight barons, who attended his person, and that every baron had four esquires, every esquire one gentleman, and every gentleman one valet.

KATE.

I should think the pride and dignity of these Norman noblemen must have been very annoying to the Saxons, whom they deprived of their estates. Are there any remains of Chester Castle now, Marion?

MARION.

Some towers and gateways of Norman architecture are still standing; but the site of the castle is principally occupied by the county gaol, which is a magnificent structure, built of white free-stone.

HERBERT.

The city of Chester was a place of rendezvous for the royal forces during the insurrection of Owen Glendower. It also shared in the calamities of the houses of York and Lancaster; and was twice visited by the heroic Margaret of Anjou, who had many adherents in the county.

MARION.

During my search for information about the city of Chester I met with a curious anecdote relating to the persecuting times of Queen Mary. It is said that her Majesty, intending to take vengeance on such of her Irish subjects as were heretics to the Catholic faith, issued a commission empowering the lord deputy of Ireland to institute proceedings against them. This commission she intrusted to a Dr. Henry Cole, who on his way to Ireland stopped at an inn in Chester, and on being waited on by the mayor

communicated the business on which he was engaged, and laying a little leathern box upon the table, observed that he had that within "which would lash the heretics of Ireland." The landlady of the inn happening to overhear the discourse, and having a brother of the reformed religion in Ireland, became alarmed for his safety, and took the opportunity of a momentary absence of the doctor to take the commission from the box and put a pack of cards in its place. On arriving in Ireland Dr. Cole, full of zeal for the execution of his trust, proceeded at once to the lord deputy, and after having explained the nature of his embassy, gravely presented the box, containing, as he supposed, the royal commission. His lordship having opened it produced the cards, to the inexpressible confusion of the doctor, who at once perceived that a trick had been played upon him, and that he had had his journey to no purpose.

KATE.

How I should have enjoyed his surprise and confusion! It served him quite right for undertaking such an errand for that disagreeable bigoted queen. But did the Protestants of Ireland escape in consequence of that clever trick?

MARION.

Yes; the embarrassed doctor was obliged to return to London to get the commission renewed, and before he could again reach Ireland the queen died, and her power was at an end. It is said that Queen Elizabeth granted an annuity of 40*l.* for life to the woman whose presence of mind prevented so much bloodshed.

KATE.

This is the second instance we have met with of Mary's death putting an end to her cruel intentions. How rejoiced the people must have been to get rid of such a wicked queen.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; the news of her death, and the accession of protestant Elizabeth, was hailed throughout the kingdom with shouts of joy,

and everywhere the popular feeling found vent in the heartfelt cry of "God save Queen Elizabeth!" But we must not enter upon the happy change which then took place in the condition of the people of England, as we have so many interesting subjects to consider in this county, and we have not yet concluded our notice of the city of Chester.

HERBERT.

The cathedral is described as a spacious but irregular pile, built of the red stone of the county. It was originally a nunnery, and afterwards the abbey church of a benedictine monastery, founded by Hugh d'Avranches.

MARION.

The city walls are said to be complete specimens of ancient fortification, though now only used for purposes of recreation, the summit affording a delightful promenade. The population of Chester is nearly 28,000.

WILLIE.

The principal rivers of this county are, the Dee, the Mersey, and the Weaver. Now, mamma, shall we talk about the salt mines?

HERBERT.

There are several towns, Willie, with a much larger population than those from whence salt is procured.

MRS. LESLIE.

Population cannot always be our guide for priority, Herbert. As salt and cheese are the principal productions of Cheshire, it seems natural to notice the district where those articles abound before places with even a larger population. Can you mention the chief salt towns of this county, Willie?

WILLIE.

Yes, mamma; Northwich, Middlewich, and Nantwich. Miss Selby says that the Cheshire salt district contains the largest quantity of salt in the world, and that it is in this part of the county that the best Cheshire cheese is made.

MRS. LESLIE.

This dismal-looking picture, as you call it, represents the great Marston salt mine, near Northwich ; and those walls, which you describe as being some black and some white, are all immense walls of bright glittering salt. The spots, which you say look like stars, are lights, scattered here and there throughout this extensive mine, and by shining on the walls, show that they are white ; the dark parts only appear so from being in the shade, for it is all bright and glistening, floors, roof and all ; and if we were to visit it when well lighted up, we should be dazzled with its crystal brightness. I have heard that when Mr. Canning visited this mine, about thirty years ago, it was illuminated with 15,000 candles, and that the effect was most magnificent.

KATE.

Oh ! what a splendid sight it must have been !

WILLIE.

But how do people get into the mine ? I suppose it is very deep.

KATE.

They are let down in a bucket ; are they not, mamma ?

MRS. LESLIE.

They are. I have another engraving here, which represents, you see, a party in the bucket going down into the mine. I have been informed that the motion of descent is far from unpleasant, and occupies about five minutes. Do you see, Willie, how tightly that lady appears to hold the rope by which the bucket is suspended ?

WILLIE.

Yes, mamma. But there is a horse in the mine ; surely he was not let down in the bucket ?

MRS. LESLIE.

Indeed he was, Willie ; at least the animal that he is intended to represent was let down in that way. You see he is at work,

drawing the salt from one part of the mine to another. He has a stable down there too, and is only lifted up occasionally to have a run in the fields, and get a little fresh air and healthful exercise.

WILLIE.

How very kind it was of papa to bring us these pictures. They make us understand so much about the salt mines. I hope you have some more, mamma.

MRS. LESLIE.

I have only one more, and that represents a long mine, well lighted, though it gives us but a very poor idea of the dazzling beauty of the place. The miners call this "Regent Street," because it is supposed to bear some resemblance to a street in a city, with all its lamps lighted, of a dark night. I was informed, some years ago, that a ball was given in this mine by some officers, at which most of the neighbouring gentry attended.

MARION.

It must have been an odd sight to see the ladies, in their ball costume, descending in the bucket!

HERBERT.

I will venture to say that the novelty of the carriage which conveyed them to the ball room very much increased their gratification.

MRS. LESLIE.

Very likely. But now, Herbert, can you tell us how the salt is procured from those gigantic and massive rocks?

HERBERT.

Sometimes they are blasted with gunpowder, but more frequently the miners with their pickaxes detach the salt in smaller portions; it is then taken up by a bucket in the same way in which visitors ascend. It has afterwards to go through several processes, in order to separate it from the earthy matter, before it is fit for use or exportation.

MARION.

Has the Marston mine been long worked, mamma ?

MRS. LESLIE.

Upwards of eighty years ; and it is said to appear as inexhaustible as ever. Several other mines are in the neighbourhood of Northwich, but none so large as this. And here, my dear children, let us pause for a moment to admire the wisdom and goodness of the beneficent Creator, in storing within the bosom of the earth such an abundant supply of that commodity which adds so largely to our comfort. I fear we are much too prone to partake of God's daily bounties without fully realising their incalculable benefit ; for instance, I think it very possible that you may all through life have partaken of the article we have been considering, without ever having had a thought of how much its possession has contributed to your enjoyment of the other good things which God has given you, or how materially your comfort would be diminished if that simple article alone were withdrawn.

KATE.

I know, mamma, that what you say is quite true about our not being thankful enough to God for what he gives us ; but yet I do not think I should consider a scarcity of salt a privation, as lately I have scarcely ever taken any with my meals.

MRS. LESLIE.

Though you may not directly take it, Katie, it nevertheless forms an important ingredient in nearly all the food you eat, and one without which it would be intolerably insipid. Like many other blessings, I fear it is not sufficiently appreciated, because we have it in abundance. In countries where salt is scarce, it is regarded as an inestimable treasure.

HERBERT.

I have an extract here, mamma, from the pen of Mungo Park, the great African traveller ; he says, "In the interior countries

of Africa, the greatest of all luxuries is salt. It would appear strange to an European to see a child suck a piece of rock salt as if it were sugar. This, however, I have frequently seen, although in the inland parts the poorer class of inhabitants are so rarely indulged with this precious article, that to say a man eats salt with his victuals, is the same as saying he is a rich man. I have myself suffered great inconvenience from the scarcity of this article. The long use of vegetable food creates so painful a longing for salt, that no words can sufficiently describe it."

MRS. LESLIE.

There, Katie ! I think that will convince you that we need but to lose this great blessing to make us duly estimate its value.

MARION.

Although Northwich has such valuable mines of salt, it must be a very small town, as its population is but 1377.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, this is one of the few places whose population has declined during the last twenty years. I am not surprised that such is the case, as the town has been so undermined, that many of the houses have sunk down as if from an earthquake, and can only be approached by descending a number of steps. The whole place has, indeed, a very insecure appearance.

WILLIE.

Salt is not always got out of mines, for I heard papa speaking of a brine-spring, from which large quantities of salt were procured.

MRS. LESLIE.

Very true, Willie ; but brine-springs are entirely the effect of water passing over beds of salt.

KATE.

Is salt procured from mines or brine-springs, at Middlewich and Nantwich, mamma ?

MRS. LESLIE.

Mines of rock salt are found only in the neighbourhood of Northwich, in this county. Middlewich and Nantwich have long been celebrated for their brine-springs, but I am informed that at Nantwich the last spring failed about three years ago, that is, the brine grew weaker and weaker, until it did not answer to work it any longer.

KATE.

Then perhaps we shall have to do without salt at some future time.

MRS. LESLIE.

We need be under no apprehension of that, at present, Katie, as it is the opinion of some eminent geologists, that, at the present rate of production, Cheshire will yield an abundant supply for a thousand years at least.

MARION.

I suppose, mamma, you can tell us the quantity of salt annually procured from this district.

MRS. LESLIE.

It now averages upwards of 1,450,000 tons.

HERBERT.

Middlewich is a very ancient town, and is supposed to have been occupied in the time of the Romans. Its present population is about 4500.

MARION.

The failure of the brine-springs at Nantwich must have interfered with the prosperity of the town, I should think. Has it any other manufacture, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, the cotton manufacture is carried on to some extent; but the principal trade is shoemaking for the London shops, and for exportation. The population of Nantwich is 5800.

MARION.

Stockport, on the borders of Lancashire, is a town of great antiquity, and derives its present importance from the cotton manufacture. I have heard that when its immense factories are lighted with gas of a winter's evening, it gives a traveller a good idea of a grand illumination. Its population is about 54,000.

KATE.

Macclesfield is another ancient town of Cheshire, and celebrated for its manufacture of silk buttons. Why do you smile, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Silk buttons, my dear, formed the staple manufacture of Macclesfield three-quarters of a century ago, when the population was some 5000 or 6000. At present it numbers about 40,000 inhabitants, and its manufactures consist of every description of silk goods, from the narrowest ribbon, to the most costly satins, velvets, and moiré antiques. You must have met with rather an antiquated account of this busy town, Katie.

HERBERT.

I think Birkenhead is a place that has also risen to importance in modern times.

MRS. LESLIE.

You are right. About twenty years ago, it was described as a pretty place, remarkable only for its fine scenery, and the ruins of an ancient priory. It is now a flourishing commercial port, having a population of upwards of 24,000, and has been distinguished by government as an emigration depôt, from whence ships are despatched for Australia. The pretty hamlets of Woodside, Seacombe, Egremont, and New Brighton, on the banks of the Mersey, are also rapidly improving, and are favourite resorts of visitors during the summer months. And now, having named the principal places of importance, and the chief events of interest connected with Cheshire, or the Vale Royal of England, I think our morning's

conversation must be brought to a close. The next county for our consideration will be Derbyshire, whose natural beauties and curiosities never fail to engage the most attentive and minute investigation of the tourist. Although, at the present time, *we* are but stay-at-home travellers, I am sure, my dear children, we shall find much within our reach to awaken our admiration in connection with that interesting county.

CONVERSATION VIII.

DERBYSHIRE.

SUBJECTS:— Boundaries. — Size. — Early Inhabitants. — Natural Features. — High Peak. — Peveril Castle. — Mineral Produce. — Peak Caverns. — Derbyshire Marble, &c. — Derby. — Signification of Name. — Invasion of Danes. — Historical Reminiscences. — Introduction of Silk Works. — Old Lombe Mill. — John Flamsteed. — Matlock. — High Tor. — Buxton. — Warm Springs known to Romans. — Principal Rivers. — Belper and other Towns. — Sir Richard Arkwright. — Butterley and Codnor Park Iron Works. — Some Account of Iron Manufacture. — Quantity of Iron annually raised and manufactured in the County. — Ancient Sports. — Chatsworth. — Crystal Palace. — Sir Joseph Paxton.

“FIVE minutes past ten, and Herbert absent!” exclaimed Mrs. Leslie, who was sitting with her other children awaiting the entrance of her eldest son, in order to commence their conversation on Derbyshire. “What can be the reason of such unusual want of punctuality? Go, Marion, and tell him we are quite ready for our morning’s occupation.” Before Marion could obey, her brother entered, bringing with him several books, which he laid upon the table. “I am so sorry I have kept you waiting, dear mamma,” he said, in reply to her inquiring glance; “but really I did not think it was so late. Ever since breakfast I have been searching through the library for further information than any I have met with, respecting the wonderful Peak Cavern; but, after all, I am not at all satisfied. Dugdale, who generally stands my friend, scarcely mentions it; and even Camden gives but a very short account.

MRS. LESLIE.

I shall be happy to reward your laudable spirit of inquiry, my dear boy, by giving you all the information you desire respecting the wonderful caverns of the Peak, for there are three, possessing almost equal interest; but first I shall be glad to receive some particulars relative to the boundaries and extent of Derbyshire.

HERBERT.

It is bounded on the north by Yorkshire and part of Cheshire, on the east by Nottinghamshire, on the south-east by Leicestershire, and on the west by Cheshire and Staffordshire. From north to south, its length is fifty-five miles, its breadth at the widest part is thirty-three miles.

MRS. LESLIE.

The earliest-known inhabitants of this county were the Coritani; on being conquered by the Romans, their territory was included in the province of Flavia Cæsariensis, and under the Saxon heptarchy constituted part of the kingdom of Mercia.

MARION.

Derbyshire is described as presenting a greater contrast in the aspect of its scenery than any other county in England. The northern part abounds in rugged and barren precipices, from one to two thousand feet above the level of the sea; the southern part, on the contrary, is a fertile plain gradually rising towards the north-west, until it reaches the range of mountains known by the name of the High Peak, and which, I think, forms part of the great Pennine chain we have so often mentioned.

MRS. LESLIE.

It does, my dear. Look, Willie, on your map, and find the mountains your sister mentions. That is right, they are chiefly, you see, to the north-west of the county.

WILLIE.

Yes, mamma, there appears to be nothing else but mountains up there, where it is marked High Peak.

MRS. LESLIE.

There are valleys as well as mountains, Willie, and some of them are very lovely indeed, and with their pretty villages and pleasant streams, form a delightful contrast to the wild mountain precipices by which they are surrounded. The vale of Castleton is greatly celebrated for its beauty and fertility, as well as the villages of Hope and Brough. I have a picture here which gives some idea of the scenery of the north-western part of Derbyshire.

WILLIE.

Thank you, mamma, that is a pretty picture: but I think I should much rather live in one of those little houses in the valley than in either of those curious-looking buildings on the top of that steep rocky-looking mountain.

MRS. LESLIE.

Very true, my love, the little hamlet in the vale looks more attractive, and certainly more secure than the old ruin on the precipice. Can either of you tell me what distinguished place that ruin is the remnant of?

MARION.

I do think, mamma, it must be Peveril Castle, which has been described by Sir Walter Scott. Am I right?

MRS. LESLIE.

Quite right, my dear. The ruins now remaining are very inconsiderable, and consist principally of the donjon or keep, in tolerable preservation, and three towers, some fifty or sixty yards lower down the hill. The keep was originally cased with freestone of good Norman work, but on the south and east side this has been taken away, (I am informed, to face the church,) and the rough and unhewn limestone detracts considerably from its former appearance.

KATE.

Pray, mamma, what is the meaning of the word donjon? Is it a dungeon?

MRS. LESLIE.

The donjon, or keep, was the term applied to the strongest part of a Norman fortress,—a high, square, detached tower, with walls of amazing thickness. This was the final retreat of the garrison in case of a siege, and the stronghold that was the last to surrender to the enemy. The walls of a Norman keep were usually twelve or fourteen feet thick, and in some cases have measured even thirty feet at their bases. An underground dungeon appears to have been unknown in the Norman keep; but as it contained the prison of the fortress, it is probable that it may have given rise to the modern use of the word dungeon. Do you know, Marion, when and for whom Peveril Castle was erected?

MARION.

It is generally supposed to have been built in the reign of William the Conqueror, and with the surrounding estates to have been given by him to William Peveril, one of his favourites, from whom it received its name. It afterwards passed into other families, and in the reign of Edward the Third, was, with the adjacent forest and lands, bestowed upon John of Gaunt, his son.

KATE.

How could any one have thought of building a castle upon such a precipice? It must have been exceedingly inconvenient for its inhabitants to get to any other place.

MRS. LESLIE.

In those warlike times, convenience was less thought of than security against invasion, Katie; and I have no doubt the latter was the motive for selecting such an apparently impregnable position; but, notwithstanding its peculiar natural advantages of situation, Peveril Castle was taken by assault during the changes of its owners, which Marion has mentioned. There is not, however, anything particularly interesting in the relation of the siege, therefore, I think we may at once proceed to notice the

caverns which are beneath the precipice on which the ruins of the castle stand.

KATE.

You mean the Peak caverns, mamma, the objects of Herbert's morning's research.

MRS. LESLIE.

Of course, my dear. It is the Peak we are speaking of. But here, I think it will be well for you to mention what are the principal mineral resources of this county.

KATE.

It has mines of coal, iron, and lead.

MARION.

Is Derbyshire a large coal-producing county, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Its returns of coal are united with those of Nottinghamshire. In 1856 the two counties produced 3,293,325 tons. We will defer speaking of the iron produce of the county for the present; but I may tell you that the lead mines are much less productive than formerly, their annual produce being now but little more than 6000 tons, wholly destitute of silver. They have been worked ever since the time of the Romans, as is proved by some "pigs," or masses of lead, bearing Roman inscriptions, having been found near Matlock. The deeper the mines are excavated, the poorer the veins of lead become; thus their present unproductiveness, after having been worked so many centuries, is easily accounted for. Some of the mines are now quite exhausted, and form the celebrated caves of this county. Those extraordinary ones we are about to notice, without doubt, formerly abounded in that valuable metal. I am informed that it is difficult to imagine a scene of greater magnificence than that which is presented at the entrance to the cavern, which is distinguished by the name of the Peak Cavern. Immense rocks of grey limestone, rising to a height of nearly 300 feet, form a canopy or arched roof at the mouth of the

cave ; while here and there the rock is broken into craggy masses, which greatly add to the rude grandeur of the scene.

HERBERT.

I think I have read somewhere, mamma, that this part of the cave is inhabited by twine-spinners. It must be a gloomy place to live in!

MRS. LESLIE.

It is occupied by six separate rope-walks, rising in tiers from left to right, like the steps of an amphitheatre, and extending as far into the cavern as sufficient daylight penetrates ; but the rope-makers do not live in that subterranean place ; there was, however, formerly a little cottage there, inhabited by two females.

KATE.

Two females, mamma! They must have been very courageous ones, I think. But is there not any house there now ?

MRS. LESLIE.

There is merely a little cabin, where the guide receives visitors, and prepares them for their explorations.

MARION.

You have not told us the length of the cave, mamma.

MRS. LESLIE.

It is about 750 yards long ; some of the minor recesses were formerly only accessible by visitors lying on the back in a small boat, and thus being floated along the small lakes which intercepted their progress, in many places passing under a low ledge of rock not two feet above them. This rock has now been blasted through, and a pathway conducts them to the interior as far as penetrable. Half the rock, the water, and the boats, are left, however, for the use of such adventurous travellers, as prefer such a mode of transit.

HERBERT.

Well ! I must say if ever I have the good fortune to pay a visit to the Peak Cavern, I shall choose the Styx and Charon style of voyaging. It must be so *tame* to walk quietly along the pathway.

MRS. LESLIE.

Your spirit of enterprise, I should think, my dear boy, would be amply gratified by visiting Speedwell Mine, another interesting cavern belonging to the same range. It is approached in a boat by a subterranean canal some 120 feet below the surface. It is 1000 yards in length, and has been tunnelled in search of lead. It leads to a cave of vast height, through which runs a mighty stream, dashing its waters over a ledge of rock some sixty or eighty feet high, into a dark lake below, the bottom of which has never been fathomed. The third cave, which I must briefly mention, possesses peculiar interest from its yielding a beautiful fluor spar, called "Blue John," from which vases and chimney ornaments are made. I have been informed that this substance is found nowhere else in the world.

MARION.

Derbyshire is also celebrated for a beautiful black marble, which is capable of a very high polish, and is used for chimney-pieces, and other household decorations. Large quantities of the china-stone, which is used in the potteries of Staffordshire, are also found in this county.

MRS. LESLIE.

Now, Willie, it is quite time for you to tell us the name of the county town.

WILLIE.

Derby, on the river Derwent.

KATE.

It is said to have been originally called Derwentby, or the town on the river Derwent.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, and in process of time that was corrupted into Deoraby, from which Derby is abbreviated. The town is considered of British

origin, but the Romans had a station on the opposite side of the river. Roman remains have also occasionally been dug up at Derby.

KATE.

This was one of the towns that suffered so severely from the invasions of the Danes, mamma.

MRS. LESLIE.

True, Katie; they established themselves in Derby, and remained in possession of the place for nearly half a century, but were at length expelled by the valiant Ethelfleda, whose warlike character we noticed last week. It was subsequently regained by them, and held as long as they had any power in England.

HERBERT.

Very little mention is made of Derby in the history of our country, I think, mamma; but yet enough has been recorded to show that it shared in the ill-feeling which so generally prevailed against the Jews, at the time they were so dreadfully persecuted in England. It is related, that in the reign of Richard the First, a charter was granted, at the earnest entreaty of the inhabitants, giving them permission to expel all Jews from the town, and to prevent any of that unhappy race from taking up their abode there under any pretence whatever.

MRS. LESLIE.

What a lamentable amount of intolerance, and absence of the genuine spirit of Christianity, is indicated by such a charter! How different is the religion of the Bible, which teaches us to regard every man as a neighbour, and a brother! But what is the principal historical event of modern times connected with the town of Derby, Herbert?

HERBERT.

The arrival of the Pretender and his army, with about two hundred English Jacobites, on his march to London, to endeavour to dethrone King George the Second.

MRS. LESLIE.

Can you tell us the success of that expedition ?

HERBERT.

The project was abandoned, and the Pretender and his army retreated from Derby in two days, in consequence of his Scotch officers fearing an attack from the Duke of Cumberland, the king's son ; who, with his army, was rapidly approaching ; and thus ended Charles Edward's attack on England. After some vicissitudes in Scotland, he encountered the Duke of Cumberland in the decisive battle of Culloden, when he was finally defeated, and the rebellion in England and Scotland entirely subdued.

KATE.

I quite forget who the Pretender was, mamma.

MRS. LESLIE.

I am sorry, Katie, to find your knowledge of English and Scotch history so defective, but as these conversations are not designed for your instruction in that branch of study, otherwise than as the incidental mention of historical circumstances in connection with particular places may serve to refresh your memory, I cannot now enter into particulars of the pretensions of Charles Edward to the English throne. I may just tell you that he was the last descendant of the unfortunate house of Stuart, who attempted to regain the throne of England. You will find a very interesting account of his vicissitudes in your favourite, "Mrs. Markham's History of England." Now, Willie, can you tell us for what branch of industry Derby is chiefly celebrated ?

WILLIE.

For its silk works ; is it not, mamma ?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, my dear. The art of "silk throwing," as it is called, which means preparing the raw silk for the manufacturer, was introduced into England nearly a hundred and forty years ago, by

John Lombe, an ingenious mechanic, who went to Italy for the purpose of learning the process. On his return, he fixed upon Derby as the place of his future labours, and purchased an island on the Derwent, for the erection of his silk mills. The two mills erected by him still exist, the walls being in a perfect state of preservation, although considerable portions of the interior were restored about two years ago. The original cost of the mills was 30,000*l*. The larger one is 100 feet long, five stories high, and lighted by 468 windows.

MARION.

I suppose there are now other silk mills in Derby?

MRS. LESLIE.

There are twelve or fourteen mills at work at the present time. The old Lombe Mill is the principal, although one of more recent date is the largest.

KATE.

You said the silk was prepared for manufacture at Derby, is it not made into fabrics for dresses there?

MRS. LESLIE.

No, my dear, it is merely thrown, spun, and twisted, ready for the manufacturers of Bradford and Nottingham, to which places it is sent, to be made into dresses, lace, and hosiery. There are, however, three mills, where ribbons are made at Derby. The silk-trade of the town has considerably increased during the last few years. The population of Derby is about 40,000.

HERBERT.

Before we leave Derby, we must not forget to mention John Flamsteed, the Astronomer Royal, after whom the Observatory in Greenwich Park is named.

KATE.

Was Flamsteed a native of Derby? Pray tell us what you know of him, for he seems almost like an old acquaintance; we know Flamsteed House so well.

HERBERT.

Yes, Katie, he was born at Derby, of parents in an humble rank of life. He received his education at the free school of that town. It was the accidental perusal of a work on astronomy which gave him such a taste for the study of that science, as regulated all his future life.

MARION.

How often I have noticed the most simple circumstance lead to great results! Thus, as we lately read, the accidental falling of an apple suggested to Sir Isaac Newton's mind the law of gravitation. But do you know, Herbert, how Flamsteed came to be made Astronomer Royal?

HERBERT.

He was introduced to the notice of Charles I. by a work on the tides, which he had written for the use of his majesty, in which the falseness of astrology was pointed out. The king was pleased with it, and the following year gave him the appointment of Astronomer Royal, with a salary of 100*l.* a year. The Observatory at Greenwich was then founded, and Flamsteed became its first resident astronomer.

MRS. LESLIE.

We must now pass on to some other celebrated places in this county. Can you mention any, Willie?

WILLIE.

Matlock and Buxton, which are famed for their warm baths and mineral waters. Can you tell us anything more about those places, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Matlock is on the banks of the Derwent, about eighteen miles from Derby, and has a population of about 4000. The scenery around is singularly romantic and picturesque, and consists on one side of towering peaks and rugged limestone rocks, which give it a grand and bold character. The mineral tepid springs of Matlock began to attract public notice about the end of the last century.

KATE.

Do you know, mamma, what is the reason of the springs producing tepid water ?

MRS. LESLIE.

It is conjectured that the water acquires its warmth by passing through a stratum of limestone.

KATE.

I have something else now to ask, mamma. I have heard of the High Tor at Matlock, and I believe it is a high mountain or rock, but I have no idea what the word "Tor" means.

MRS. LESLIE.

It is a Saxon word, from which our word tower is derived, and signifies an abrupt steep rock. It is generally applied to those immense masses of granite which are found in different parts of England, and seem as if they had been piled by nature one upon another, with a view to the most fantastic and grotesque effect. There are several of these Tors in different parts of Derbyshire, as well as in Devonshire and Cornwall. The High Tor at Matlock rises to a height of upwards of 400 feet.

MARION.

The village of Buxton, which is greatly celebrated for its medicinal waters, is in the hundred of High Peak, and is a place of much fashionable resort. The baths are spacious and elegant, and the crescent is a magnificent range of buildings, erected by the late Duke of Devonshire at a cost of 120,000*l*. The population of Buxton is 1235.

HERBERT.

I find that it is generally supposed that the warm springs of Buxton were known to the Romans, as several ancient roads meet at that spot, and some articles of Roman workmanship have been found there at different times, but the baths appear to have been almost lost sight of during the middle ages; and it was not until

the sixteenth century that the waters acquired any great celebrity. Like these of Matlock, they are now much resorted to by invalids.

WILLIE.

May I tell you the principal rivers of Derbyshire, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Certainly, my dear.

WILLIE.

The Derwent, the Wye, the Trent, and the Dove. The last river is between this county and Staffordshire, and flows into the Trent.

MRS. LESLIE.

The Dove is one of the most lovely streams in England. I had selected an extract descriptive of its beauties from Rhodes's "Peak Scenery," but as we have much to engage our attention, I must leave you to read it at your leisure. Can you, Katie, mention any other towns of Derbyshire?

KATE.

Belper is the most flourishing place in the county after Derby. It has one of the largest hosiery establishments in the kingdom, and contains a population of about 10,000.

MARION.

Bakewell and Wirksworth are large towns of Derbyshire, which owe their principal importance to the cotton trade. The population of Bakewell is about 10,000, of Wirksworth 8000.

HERBERT.

In connection with the cotton trade, we must not omit to mention Sir Richard Arkwright again, because, although Lancashire claims the honour of his birthplace, I am sure Derbyshire is more entitled to distinction on his account, as it was at Cromford that he succeeded in bringing his machinery to perfection, after

he had been driven from Lancashire by the ill-will of those who ought to have regarded him as a public benefactor.

MRS. LESLIE.

Your observation is quite correct, and Cromford, Belper, and other places in Derbyshire are now reaping the benefit of his ability and enterprising perseverance.

KATE.

Have you forgotten the iron manufacture of this county, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

No, my dear, I was just going to mention it. There are several extensive iron works in Derbyshire, the most important of which are those of Butterley and Codnor Park, in the eastern part of the county, quite on the confines of Nottinghamshire. In these extensive works the iron ore, which is found 500 or 600 feet below the surface of the earth, passes through every stage of the various processes by which it is wrought into steam-engines, and other articles of machinery.

WILLIE.

I have heard of smelting iron, can you tell me what that means, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

When the iron-ore, or iron-stone, as it is sometimes called, is procured from the mines, there is a great deal of earthy matter connected with it, which has to be separated before the iron is fit for use; this is done by the effect of great heat, and the process is termed smelting.

KATE.

Can you tell us how it is done, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

On being brought up from the mines, the iron-stone is laid in heaps, and exposed to the weather for some months, to allow the

clay, or "bind," as it is called, to fall off. It is then sent into the iron works, where it is piled in heaps with alternate layers of coal, set fire to, and allowed to burn for some weeks. This process is termed calcining.

WILLIE.

And what is done next, mamma ?

MRS. LESLIE.

It is put into a very large furnace, called the "blast-furnace," with great quantities of coal and limestone, and subjected to intense heat, which causes it to melt, and separates the iron from the earthy matter. The iron being the heaviest sinks to the bottom, and the earthy matter, or "slag," as it is then called, floats on the top, and is let out at an opening just above the fluid iron. The metal then flows from another opening made at the bottom of the furnace, into moulds prepared to receive it. At this stage of the process it is termed "pig-iron." You have been told before that it takes, on an average, three tons of iron ore to make one ton of pig-iron.

HERBERT.

I suppose the "blast-furnace" is so called because its heat is increased by a violent current of air ?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes ; and this is done by means of enormous air-pumps worked by steam-engines. The blast-engines at Butterley are of 200-horse power.

MARION.

Are there many more processes before the iron is fit for use, mamma ?

MRS. LESLIE.

The next stage is to mix atmospheric air with the pig-iron. This is done in large open coke fires, urged by a powerful blast ; and this process is called "refining ;" it is then put into the "puddling furnace," where it is again melted, and stirred

vigorously until it begins to form into spongy lumps, after which it is removed, hammered, and passed through rollers into what are termed "puddled bars;" these bars are hammered into blocks of various qualities, and the metal, which is now called "wrought" or "malleable" iron, is fit for the manufacture of the most important parts of machinery, and other useful articles.

MARION.

What is the difference between wrought iron and cast iron?

MRS. LESLIE.

"Cast iron" is merely "pig-iron" melted in a furnace, and run off into various moulds, without being subjected to the process of "refining," "puddling," "hammering," or "rolling." It is greatly inferior in strength to wrought iron, and consequently of much less value.

KATE.

Thank you, dear mamma, for giving us such a good idea of the iron manufacture; but you have not told us the amount of iron annually produced in this county.

MRS. LESLIE.

In 1856, 392,400 tons of iron ore were raised from the iron beds of the county; and the total quantity of pig-iron produced amounted to 106,960 tons, a slight diminution of the quantity manufactured the two preceding years.

HERBERT.

I understand that ancient sports and customs are still carried on with great spirit in different parts of Derbyshire.

MRS. LESLIE.

They are; and yet I am happy to say that some of the most foolish ones are nearly obsolete. There are few places, I believe, where innocent Christmas festivities are more observed. Nearly every house is gaily decorated with evergreen and holly berries,

and the blazing "yule log" is sure to accompany the good cheer that so generally prevails at that festive season.

MARION.

Although we have not time generally to mention the seats of the nobility and gentry, you will, I think, dear mamma, allow us to make an exception in favour of princely Chatsworth, the magnificent seat of the Duke of Devonshire?

MRS. LESLIE.

Most willingly, Marion, because, in the first place, Chatsworth has more than ordinary claim to notice from its almost regal splendour, and also because with it is associated the name of one of the most distinguished individuals of the present day.

HERBERT.

Of course you mean Sir Joseph Paxton, who designed the Crystal Palace?

MRS. LESLIE.

I do, my dear. And now, Marion, tell us where the far-famed domains of Chatsworth are situated, and some particulars of their early history.

MARION.

We ought to have noticed this splendid place before, mamma, for it is situated in the village of Edensor, in the High Peak, which we have already mentioned. Chatsworth was originally included in the possessions given by William the Conqueror to William Peveril. It passed into the Cavendish family in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. Mary Queen of Scots spent thirteen years of her long captivity in England in the old mansion at Chatsworth, under the care of the Earl of Shrewsbury. The present magnificent structure was erected by William, the first Duke of Devonshire, in the year 1702. It is built of a beautiful stone, veined like marble, which is found in the neighbourhood.

MRS. LESLIE.

We must not tax your memory so far as to request you to describe the architecture of this noble edifice; suffice it to say, that it is of the Ionic order, and with its gardens, sculpture, and cascades, is fit for a royal residence.

HERBERT.

You and Marion, mamma, have applied the terms, *magnificent*, *splendid*, and *noble*, to the mansion at Chatsworth; I am glad you did not call it *beautiful*, because I have been reading Ruskin lately, and have imbibed his taste in architecture; and, magnificent as Chatsworth certainly is, I am sure he would not call it *beautiful*.

MRS. LESLIE.

True, Herbert; I believe the celebrated author of "The Seven Lamps of Architecture" would see much more *beauty* in an old gable-roofed cottage, than in the wearying straight lines and uniform windows which characterise this princely mansion. Do you know, Marion, what is considered the *chef-d'œuvre* of the place?

MARION.

Its crystal palace, or glass conservatory, which was designed by Sir Joseph, then Mr. Paxton. Is it not, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

It is. This elegant structure covers several acres of land, and contains the most choice vegetable productions, fruit, and flowers, from every quarter of the globe. It possesses, artificially, all the different climates of the earth, with the peculiarities of land and water, adapted to the indigenous wants of each particular tribe of plants. The King of Saxony, on the occasion of his visit, is said to have compared it to "a tropical scene with a glass sky." The orangery, too, is a rare object of attraction, and contains the trees of the unhappy Empress Josephine, which were reared by her own hand at Malmaison.

HERBERT.

I have read an account in which it was stated, that in 1845 her Majesty Queen Victoria and court rode through the conservatory at Chatsworth in six carriages, drawn by eight horses each. I think it was this beautiful building that originated the design of the Hyde Park Crystal Palace.

MRS. LESLIE.

It no doubt led to the idea of the Exhibition building in the mind of its great architect ; but I am informed that the plan is to be more immediately referred to the house built by his design at Chatsworth for the flowering of a beautiful plant called Victoria Regia.

KATE.

Pray, dear mamma, tell us something more of Sir Joseph Paxton.

MRS. LESLIE.

Like most men who have done good service to their country, he is a self-made man, by which I mean that he owes his present high position, not to the adventitious circumstances of birth or fortune, but to what is far more ennobling and meritorious — his own well-directed talents, his industry, energy, and perseverance. Mr. Paxton was brought up to the profession of a landscape gardener, and in that capacity was engaged by the late Duke of Devonshire. His name had long been before the public as the architect of the then unrivalled crystal palace at Chatsworth, when the subject of the Great Exhibition building was in agitation. One design had been laid before and rejected by the executive committee, when Mr. Paxton presented his plan. Difficulties lay in the way of its accomplishment, but they were boldly met, and successfully overcome, and on the 1st of May, 1851, he had the satisfaction of heading the procession at the opening of the stupendous structure which has immortalised his name. In the course of the same year, he received the public approbation of her Majesty, who conferred upon him the honour of knight-

hood. And now shall I tell you the secret of Sir Joseph Paxton's eminent success?

KATE.

Oh! yes, if you please, mamma.

MRS. LESLIE.

I consider it to be comprised in one little sentence of a speech delivered by the late Duke of Devonshire at a public meeting at Bakewell, on the subject of the Exhibition building. He said, "I never knew Mr. Paxton resolve to undertake what he did not fully accomplish." To the energy, steadiness of purpose, and perseverance implied in that declaration, more than to any other cause, I hesitate not to say, are to be ascribed those splendid achievements which have gained for him such distinguished honour and such a world-wide reputation. Ever bear in mind, my dear children, that without those sterling qualities the most brilliant talents, and the most favourable circumstances for their development, are utterly insufficient to raise their possessors to usefulness and respect. With the valuable lesson conveyed in that encomium of the noble duke's, I think we cannot do better than close our conversation on Derbyshire. Next week our subject will be Staffordshire, on which county I trust you will be prepared to give much useful and interesting information.

CONVERSATION IX.



STAFFORDSHIRE.

SUBJECTS :— Boundaries. — Size. — Early Inhabitants. — Industrial Resources. — South Staffordshire by Night. — Vast Mineral Resources. — Annual Produce. — Wolverhampton. — Walsall. — Principal River. — Canals. — Stafford. — Invasion of Danes. — Historical Recollections. — Manufactures. — Izaak Walton. — Potterica. — Pottery Art practised by Romans. — Use of Salt in glazing Earthenware discovered. — Knowledge of Pottery Art acquired by a revolting Expedient. — Honourable Career of Josiah Wedgewood. — Materials required in the Art of Pottery. — City of Lichfield. — Cathedral. — Dr. Samuel Johnson. — Early Struggles. — Greatest Work. — Religious Hope. — Newcastle-under-Lyne. — Burton-upon-Trent. — Tulbury Castle. — Mary Queen of Scots. — Discovery of ancient Coins.

“ You seem to have met with something very amusing, Herbert,” said Mrs. Leslie to her son, whose risible faculties were evidently excited by a paragraph in a large old volume over which he was intently bending.

HERBERT.

Oh! mamma, do just hear what was Camden’s idea of the importance of the minerals of South Staffordshire. He says, “ The south has much pit-coal and mines of iron, but whether more to their loss or advantage, the natives themselves are best judges, and so I refer it to them.” How laughable such a query appears to us in the present day!

MRS. LESLIE.

Camden's quaint remark is indeed calculated to raise a smile, but in our estimate of the apparent want of judgment in the doubt expressed by him as to the value of those minerals, we must take into consideration the circumstances of the age in which he lived, and of the few appliances there were for those valuable commodities. If he were now here to revise his "Britannia," he would, on seeing our gas, steam vessels, railways, and manufactures, express his full appreciation of the great value and vast importance of coal and iron. I think Willie can now tell us something of Staffordshire.

WILLIE.

It is a midland county, mamma, and I have been trying to find out how it is bounded; but there are so many different counties round it that I can scarcely tell which are exactly to the north, south, and east, but it is certainly bounded by Shropshire on the west.

MRS. LESLIE.

Perhaps we shall be able to describe it better by not keeping exactly to the four cardinal points of the compass. You see Cheshire is to the north-west of the county, Derbyshire to the north-east, Warwickshire to the south-east, Worcestershire is the southern boundary, and, as you correctly state, Shropshire the western. The greatest length of the county is about sixty miles, and its breadth, at the widest part, thirty-eight miles.

HERBERT.

The earliest account we have of this county is, that it was inhabited by the British tribe Cornavii. It was subsequently included in the Roman province of Flavia Cæsariensis, and during the Saxon Heptarchy belonged to the kingdom of Mercia.

MARION.

When we commenced these conversations, I had no idea that we should find so much variety, and so many interesting topics in connection with the different counties of our native land. Each

county possesses some peculiar attraction, while at the same time it has many points that are more or less common to all.

MRS. LESLIE.

And what have you discovered to be the chief subject of interest in Staffordshire, my dear? It is unquestionably inferior to many counties both in picturesque scenery and natural curiosities.

MARION.

But it is very much distinguished for its mineral productions and industrial resources, mamma; the potteries in the north, and the iron works in the south, affording abundant employment for the inhabitants of those densely peopled districts. *This* subject ought to be, and indeed is, the most important and interesting of any connected with this county; but I must confess that *I* have been most pleased with an account I have met with of the peculiar appearance of South Staffordshire by night, chiefly, I suppose, because it had the charm of novelty to recommend it.

HERBERT.

Pray, Marion, let us all participate in that which has afforded you so much gratification.

MARION.

As you are aware, Herbert, the district called South Staffordshire, in which are included Stourbridge and Dudley in Worcestershire, as well as Walsall, Wolverhampton, Wednesbury, and many other places in this county, is one of the richest mineral districts in England, abounding in coal and ironstone. And although Staffordshire is deficient in many of the beauties of nature, which usually attract tourists, yet the southern part is said to present a scene of great grandeur and magnificence by night, in consequence of the immense fires that are always burning in connection with the iron works, and which for many miles make it appear as if the country all around were on fire. I should very much like to visit that part of the country.

WILLIE.

But are all the fires out of doors ?

MARION.

The enormous furnaces which are used for the smelting of the iron are in huge factories, Willie, from the tops of which smoke and flame are continually issuing, like those we noticed last week ; but there are beside large fires, called coke-hills, out of doors, all over that part of the country, which contribute very greatly to the singular effect.

KATE.

What are those coke-hills, Marion ?

MARION.

You know when we paid a visit to the gas-works we saw immense quantities of coal burning in retorts, and being converted into coke. In Staffordshire it appears that they do not use retorts or ovens, but pile up the coal in the open air in large heaps, something like bee-hives, which they set fire to, and cover with layers of earth, to prevent their burning too quickly. The coke thus made is used in the ever-burning furnaces I have just mentioned.

HERBERT.

I thought charcoal was the fuel that was chiefly used in the manufacture of iron.

MRS. LESLIE.

It was so formerly, and to that is attributed the small quantity of timber now found in South Staffordshire and the adjacent parts of Warwickshire. It is said that this district was once so thickly wooded, as to be known by the name of Arden, which was a Celtic or British word, signifying woodlands ; but that the incessant felling of timber to burn for charcoal, at length caused its almost entire exhaustion. The method of smelting iron with coke made from pit-coal was discovered about the year 1619, by a person named Dudley. It is stated, that before the use of that valuable substitute, 14,000 acres of timber were required to be felled

annually in England, for the supply of the furnaces, although the quantity of iron then manufactured does not admit of comparison with that made at the present time.

KATE.

I suppose there is much more iron procured from Staffordshire than from any other English county?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, vastly more. The iron ore of South Staffordshire has now reached the enormous annual produce of more than 2,200,000 tons, while the pig iron procured from the works of the district is upwards of 777,000 tons. The South Staffordshire district also produced in 1856, 7,805,500 tons of coal.

KATE.

Are there no iron mines in the north of the county?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; but they are less abundant than those of the southern district. The quantity of iron ore raised in North Staffordshire, in 1856, was 520,000 tons. The pig iron produced only amounted to 130,560 tons. Have you made any notes, Marion, of the vast population, and manufactured productions of some of the places you have mentioned as the chief seat of the iron works of this county?

MARION.

Yes, mamma. Wolverhampton, which is a very ancient town, contains nearly 50,000 inhabitants. The manufactures consist principally of small iron goods, such as locks, screws, nails, hinges, &c. The population of Walsall is nearly 27,000. The peculiar trade of this town consists of iron and brass fittings for carriages, harnesses, and such like articles. The limestone of the neighbourhood is also particularly celebrated. Wednesbury has about 12,000 inhabitants, and unites the trade of the other towns I have named.

WILLIE.

Have you forgotten the county town, mamma ?

MRS. LESLIE.

No, my dear. But we have been led on, step by step, to speak first of the towns in connection with the iron works ; and indeed they are now, in one sense, far more important than the county town, as they contain vastly more inhabitants, and form one of the principal districts of the industry and wealth of the county. Before we notice the other chief seat of industry, you may, if you like, mention the county town.

WILLIE.

Stafford, on the river Sow. This is not a large river, like the Thames or Mersey, on which ships can sail, but only a stream flowing into the Trent.

KATE.

The Trent is the only navigable river of Staffordshire, and that can only be navigated for a very few miles.

MRS. LESLIE.

Then by what means was the vast manufactured produce of this county conveyed to other parts before the formation of railways, Katie ?

KATE.

By canals, which are very numerous in Staffordshire. The Grand Trunk Canal, constructed by Brindley, the famous engineer, has been a work of great benefit to the county.

MRS. LESLIE.

Very good. And now, what information can you give relative to Stafford ?

KATE.

Very little indeed, mamma. I cannot find any notice of it at all, until the commencement of the tenth century ; and not much after that period. The Danes seem to have been continually invading it about that time, and in 913, Ethelfleda built a fortress

there, in order to repel them. In the civil wars of Charles the First, the town and castle were taken by Sir William Brereton, the general of the Parliamentarians, when the castle was completely demolished.

HERBERT.

The name of the town is said to be derived from the river being fordable by means of a staff; hence Staf-ford.

MRS. LESLIE.

I suppose you know what are the manufactures of Stafford, Katie?

KATE.

They consist of leather and shoes; but the trade is not so great as formerly. Hats and cutlery are also made, but not to any great extent. The population is about 12,000.

HERBERT.

Stafford was the birth-place of the celebrated Izaak Walton, the "patriarch of anglers." We have already noticed one of his favourite haunts, the river Dove in Derbyshire, and we shall meet with another of the streams he loved when we come to Hertfordshire.

MRS. LESLIE.

You must not give your sisters the impression (if they know no better) that good old Izaak Walton was nothing but an angler. It is in that character, certainly, that he is most generally known, and I suppose his treatise on the art of angling is more celebrated than any other of his works, but he was also a biographer and poet. He wrote the lives of Dr. Donne, of Herbert, Wotton, Hooker, and Bishop Sanderson. We will now leave Stafford, and turn to another district of this county, where the manufactures, although comparatively of recent date, have attained an eminence almost unparalleled. Of course you know I mean the Potteries.

MARION.

I was very much surprised to find, in the course of my reading last week, that "The Potteries" is the name of a district including

a long range of populous towns and villages. I had always had an idea that the term *potteries* only signified the buildings where the pottery work was carried on, just as we speak of the *factories* of Lancashire and other places.

MRS. LESLIE.

A very natural idea, in the absence of direct information on the subject. I think Herbert can give us some intelligence relating to this district.

HERBERT.

It commences near to the borders of Cheshire, in the vicinity of Newcastle-under-Lyne, and includes Tunstall, Burslem, Cobridge, Hanley, Shelton, Etruria, Stoke-upon-Trent, Fenton, and Lane End. All these places were formerly separate towns and villages, but of late years they have been so connected by the erections of new buildings, as at the present time to have the appearance of one immense town, containing nearly 140,000 inhabitants. The greater part of the earthenware of England is made in this district. Burslem claims the honour of being the parent of the Potteries.

MRS. LESLIE.

There is no doubt that the pottery art was practised in Staffordshire as early as the time of the Romans, as many earthenware vessels of that period have occasionally been excavated; but it was not until the end of the seventeenth century that it began to acquire reputation. The use of salt in glazing pottery was then accidentally discovered, and soon led to great improvements.

WILLIE.

Pray, mamma, tell us the particulars of that discovery.

MRS. LESLIE.

It is related that a servant at a farm-house in the neighbourhood of Burslem, was boiling some salt in an earthen vessel to make a brine for curing pork, and that during her momentary absence the liquor boiled over, and ran down the sides of the vessel. On becoming cold, the surface was covered with a beautiful glaze.

This circumstance being communicated to a potter in the neighbourhood, he soon improved upon it, and thus was established the manufacture of the common brown glazed ware, such as our pans and jars. Various discoveries and improvements were subsequently made from time to time, up to the year 1760, when a new era in pottery commenced, under the celebrated Josiah Wedgewood.

HERBERT.

May I relate an account I have met with of a singular expedient resorted to by an individual, many years before that period, in order to gain a knowledge of some of the secret processes relating to the improvements in pottery?

MRS. LESLIE.

Certainly, my dear.

HERBERT.

It appears that two brothers, of the name of Elers, were in possession of a secret relating to the clays of the district, which enabled them successfully to imitate the beautiful Indian and Egyptian porcelain which had hitherto been imported. Every precaution was taken to prevent the discovery of this secret, but it became known in the following remarkable manner. A clever and ingenious man, of the name of Astbury, obtained employment at their manufactory by assuming the manner and appearance of an idiot, and in that character performed all the drudgery of the establishment; his supposed imbecility rendering him unfit for anything else. In this manner he was enabled, unsuspected, to acquire a knowledge of the entire process of the work, while his leisure hours were spent in making models of the implements required, and in two years his employers had the mortification of finding that their valuable secret was discovered, and their former monopoly was at an end. From that time the manufactures spread, and various kinds of porcelain and earthenware were introduced.

MRS. LESLIE.

Thus a very desirable end was accomplished by most unworthy means. The imposition of Astbury was a dishonourable and

wicked act, and deserving the reprehension of every honest and right-minded individual. For a man endowed with reason, the noblest gift of God, voluntarily to assume the position of the poor vacant idiot, for any amount of benefit whatever, is an outrage to the feelings of humanity, and a step which all the improvements it led to must fail to justify. And now let us turn to Josiah Wedgewood, whose *honourable* industry and skill raised the commercial interests of the Potteries to an eminence which they had never before attained.

HERBERT.

Wedgewood is another instance of what you were remarking the other day, that most of our great men have been self-made men. He was born at Burslem in 1730. His position in early life was most unpromising, his father being an unsuccessful potter, and himself greatly afflicted by sickness. He received a very poor education, but early displayed great genius and activity of mind, and from the time that he commenced business as an ornamental potter, his career was one continued succession of improvements, until he had attained such excellence in his art, that visitors from all parts of Europe were attracted to Burslem to view his far-famed works. In 1763, he invented a beautiful cream-coloured ware, some of which he presented to Queen Charlotte, who admired it so much, that she ordered a complete service of the same kind, desiring that it should be called "The queen's ware," while its maker received the honour of being appointed "Potter to the Queen."

WILLIE.

Did Mr. Wedgewood make anything else besides cups and saucers, plates, and such kind of things, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, he made vases, busts, medallions, statues, and many other beautiful works of art, for which the potteries of Staffordshire are now celebrated.

MARION.

I suppose he amassed a considerable fortune?

MRS. LESLIE.

He did, some of which he expended in erecting an elegant residence for himself, and an entire village of neat cottages for his workpeople. He gave the whole of this estate the name of Etruria, after that ancient state in Italy, so celebrated for beautiful earthen vases.

KATE.

You have now explained, mamma, something that puzzled me when Herbert was repeating the names of the places in the Potteries. The pretty Italian name, Etruria, sounded so strangely among such plain English names as Tunstall, Cobridge, and others. I declare I like Mr. Wedgewood better for giving his village such a charming name, than for anything beside. Don't you, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Well, really, Katie, with all due admiration of the pretty name of the Etruscan village, and all honour for the classic taste of its founder, I must say that I look upon this district in much too practical and matter-of-fact a point of view to have my feelings greatly influenced by such a trivial point. The 144,000 plain English people who live in the plain English towns and villages by which Etruria is surrounded, and who depend for subsistence upon the manufactures which Mr. Wedgewood brought to eminence, enter into my considerations, and make me think that our *highest* admiration and regard are due to him as a benefactor of his race. What do you think, Katie?

KATE.

Oh! certainly, mamma; I see now how silly it was to ask you such a question.

MRS. LESLIE.

There is one more subject we must mention in connection with the Potteries. Do you know what are the materials required for their manufactures, and from whence they are procured?

KATE.

Are they not the different kinds of clay found in that district?

MRS. LESLIE.

There was formerly scarcely any other used ; but of late years the Staffordshire clay has been superseded by the clays of Devonshire, Dorsetshire, and Cornwall. China stone is brought from Derbyshire ; flint, which is also an important ingredient in making porcelain, is procured from Gravesend and Northfleet, in Kent ; coal for the ovens, in which the ware is baked, abounds in Staffordshire ; and salt, for the glazing of the common vessels, is made from the brine-springs of the district. Ground flint is, I believe, the principal ingredient used in glazing china ware. The colouring, burnishing, and gilding processes, as well as the entire manufacture, must be seen to be understood, and so numerous are the ingredients used in the decorative department of the art, that it would be difficult to particularise them. To give you some little idea of the extent to which the manufacture of porcelain is carried on, I may just mention that the value of the gold used for ornamental work, in one of the pottery villages alone, I have seen it stated, amounts to 35,000*l.* per annum. It is now time for us to notice some of the ancient towns of Staffordshire. Can you mention any, Willie ?

WILLIE.

The city of Lichfield, Newcastle-under-Lyne, celebrated for the manufacture of hats and silk throwing, and Burton-on-Trent, which is noted for ale.

HERBERT.

The name Lichfield, which, it is said, signifies in Saxon the field of the dead, is supposed to be derived from a dreadful massacre of Christian martyrs, which took place in the 5th century, on the spot where the city is built. A field in the immediate vicinity still bears the name of Christian Field. The cathedral, which is the chief object of attraction, was almost destroyed by Cromwell's soldiers during the civil wars. It is recorded that they not only demolished the carved work, broke in pieces the beautiful painted windows, and battered down the spires, but that they actually made guard-houses and stables of the body of the church.

It was restored by Bishop Hacket, on the Restoration. The present population of the city is above 7,000.

MRS. LESLIE.

Lichfield is distinguished as the birthplace of several eminent individuals. Can either of you mention any?

MARION.

Lady Mary Wortley Montague, Elias Ashmole, the founder of the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford, and the celebrated Dr. Samuel Johnson, were born at Lichfield. The latter, who was the son of an unsuccessful bookseller and stationer, was born in 1709. He has been styled "the greatest ornament of the eighteenth century." Addison and Garrick were educated at the free grammar school of this city.

HERBERT.

Was not Dr. Johnson's a very eventful life?

MRS. LESLIE.

He had a hard struggle with the world before he attained anything like a competence. At twenty-eight years of age, we find him, after an unsuccessful attempt to establish a school at Lichfield, and an equally vain endeavour to gain a livelihood by his pen, travelling to London, in company with Garrick, their joint purse containing less than sixpence, if one of the anecdotes relating to their early history may be relied on.

HERBERT.

I believe Johnson's first attempts at authorship in London did not meet with more success than they had previously received at Lichfield?

MRS. LESLIE.

You are right. "You had better buy a porter's knot," was the uncourteous reply of the publisher to whom he offered some of his productions, alluding to the large and muscular form of the literary aspirant; "and he would scarcely have been worse off than

he was for several years, if he had taken the publisher's advice," is the testimony of his biographer.

MARION.

I think Dr. Johnson's own manner was generally rough and churlish, was it not, mamma ?

MRS. LESLIE.

He was certainly deficient in that suavity and courtesy which tends to soften the asperities of life ; but under a rough and stern exterior, I have no hesitation in saying I believe he concealed an affectionate and grateful heart. To use a homely illustration, "He was a rough diamond," but the diamond might occasionally be seen amid its native roughness. His celebrated tale, "Rasselas," was written to pay his mother's debts, and the expenses of her funeral. We have not time to follow this great author along that uphill path, which led at length to competence and fame. His dictionary was his greatest work, and occupied him, with the frequent aid of several amanuenses, for a period of eight years. For several years before his death he received a pension of 300*l.* per annum from his majesty George the Third.

KATE.

I suppose Dr. Johnson was a religious man, mamma ?

MRS. LESLIE.

I have no doubt, from the testimony of his biographer, Boswell, and from extracts from his own papers, that the important subject of religion had occupied his mind for many years, although some erroneous views, added to a constitutional melancholy, prevented him from experiencing that "her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace ;" but in briefly adverting to the closing scene of his earthly career, let us, my dear children, mark well the ground of his confidence and hope. "My dear doctor," he said to his medical attendant, "believe a dying man,—there is no salvation but in the sacrifice of the Lamb of God." No

false ideas of human merit then obscured the bright beaming of the "Sun of Righteousness," and resting on the "Rock of Ages," he doubtless entered into rest. His remains were interred in Westminster Abbey, and a statue has been erected to his memory in St. Paul's Cathedral. Here we must conclude our reminiscences of the city of Lichfield, as the morning is far advanced, and we have not quite exhausted our memoranda.

MARION.

Newcastle-under-Lyne is a well-built market-town, pleasantly situated on a tributary of the river Trent. The inhabitants are extensively engaged in silk-throwing, and the manufacture of hats. Immense quantities of stone-ware are also made in the neighbourhood. The population of the town is upwards of 10,000.

HERBERT.

Burton-upon-Trent is a town of great antiquity, which derived its early importance from an abbey founded by Ulfric, earl of Mercia, at the commencement of the 11th century. It is now principally celebrated for ale, and also participates in the iron trade of the county. Its population is nearly 10,000.

MARION.

I have one short notice relating to Tutbury Castle, near Burton-upon-Trent. This castle was included in the duchy of Lancaster, and was a favourite residence of John of Gaunt, by whom it was maintained in regal splendour, which greatly added to the prosperity of the adjacent town. It was afterwards, with the duchy, united to the crown, and in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, was a place of confinement for Mary, Queen of Scots, at two different periods of her captivity in England. It was reduced to ruins by the parliamentarians, in the time of Charles the First; but some considerable remains still exist.

KATE.

I wonder how the unfortunate queen managed to pass her time in the gloomy old castles where she was so long a prisoner.

MRS. LESLIE.

During her residence at Tutbury, although in reality a prisoner, she was allowed much out-door recreation; hawking was one of her favourite amusements, which she was permitted to pursue in the valley of the Dove. She was also very fond of needlework; a bed, a set of chairs, and a suite of hangings, are still shown at Hardwicke, as the embroidery of the captive queen.

I have lately read of a wonderful discovery of ancient silver coins in the river Dove, which runs at the foot of the rock on which Tutbury castle stood. There is a very curious and interesting story in connection with it, but it is almost too late to repeat it.

KATE.

Oh, please to do so, mamma.

MRS. LESLIE.

On one condition, Katie; your being sufficiently acquainted with English history, to answer a question that leads directly to my narrative. What was the character of Edward the Second?

KATE.

Pray, mamma, let me consider a minute! Oh! I know. He was a very foolish weak-minded king, and allowed himself to be directed in everything by his favourites, Gaveston and the two Spencers.

MRS. LESLIE.

Very good! I dare say you remember that Piers Gaveston, the first of his favourites, was a native of Gascony, and that he treated the English nobles very ill, and of course was very much disliked by them in consequence?

KATE.

Yes, mamma. But what has this to do with the discovery of the silver coins?

MRS. LESLIE.

You shall hear. About that time, Thomas, the second earl of Lancaster, and cousin to the king, resided at this famous old castle

of Tutbury, and being exasperated at Edward's conduct, headed a party of barons who took up arms against him. Thus a civil war broke out, in which Gaveston was killed, to the great grief and displeasure of the king. In the course of this rebellion, which lasted ten years, Edward and his army advanced into Staffordshire, and attacked this very castle. The Earl of Lancaster sought safety by fording the river Dove, which was the only available means of escape. His treasurer followed, bearing the military chest, in which was deposited the money amassed by the earl to defray the expenses of the war; but in the terror and confusion that prevailed, the chest with all its contents was lost in the Dove; and the immense treasure remained buried there upwards of three hundred years.

KATE.

And is it possible it was ever discovered after all that time?

MRS. LESLIE.

It was; but the greatest wonder is, that it was not brought to light before, as two bridges had been built, and a corn mill and cotton mill erected at different times. It was not, however, until 1831, that any clue was obtained to the hidden treasure. In the month of June in that year, some workmen who were employed in excavating the bed of the river at a particular spot, found some small silver coins unlike any they had ever seen. This led to further search, and it is stated that in the course of a week the coins found were "so abundant that one hundred and fifty were turned up in a single shovelful of gravel." The total number of coins dug up, is computed at not less than one hundred thousand.

KATE.

And who had all that old money, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

At first, any person engaged in the search, who was disposed to do so, and many reaped a golden harvest by selling the coins to the lookers-on, at seven or eight shillings per hundred; but as the

soil of the river, and all found thereon belonged to the reigning monarch, then William the Fourth, in right of his being Duke of Lancaster, a command was issued forbidding any person to make further search for coins, and all that were afterwards found were transmitted to the king, or to the chancellor of the duchy.

KATE.

What a very wonderful story! How much I should like to have seen some of those old coins, as they looked when they were first dug up, after they had been in the river so many years.

MRS. LESLIE.

They were mostly found completely embedded in a substance very much resembling stone, but which was doubtless formerly sand or gravel deposited in different strata upon the soil at the bottom of the river, and which had acquired solidity by time. The separation of the coins from this hard substance must have been a work of considerable difficulty. But our time is up. Warwickshire will be the next county for consideration.

CONVERSATION X.



WARWICKSHIRE.

SUBJECTS : — Boundaries. — Size. — Mineral Produce. — Early Inhabitants. — Roman Roads. — Warwick. — Warwick Castle. — Guy Earl of Warwick. — Guy's Cliff. — Piers Gaveston. — Rivers of County. — Birmingham. — Antiquity of Iron Works. — Modern Manufactures. — Historical Recollections. — Edge Hill. — Vast Population. — Dearth of Literature in last Century. — City of Coventry. — Derivation of Name, Coventry. — Destruction of City Walls. — Coventry formerly celebrated for Shows and Pageants. — Royal Visitors entertained in Olden Time. — Captivity of Queen of Scots. — Ancient Inns. — Ancient architectural Remains. — Stratford-upon-Avon. — William Shakspeare. — Shakspeare's House. — Leamington. — Rugby. — Kenilworth Castle. — Entertainment to Queen Elizabeth. — Representation of Mysteries. — Impiety of such Representations. — Moral Position of England still below her Privileges. — Call for earnest Prayer.

“**WE** have come now to the most central county in England and Wales, mamma,” said little Willie, as with a cheerful happy countenance he laid his atlas before his mother, and pointed to Warwickshire in confirmation of his statement. “The most central county if viewed from east to west, Willie, but certainly not if taken from north to south,” she answered, “but it is quite sufficient to describe Warwickshire as one of the midland counties, and now I should like you to tell me by what other counties it is surrounded?”

WILLIE.

It is bounded on the north-east by Leicestershire, on the north-west by Staffordshire, on the west by Worcestershire, on the south by Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire, and on the east by Northamptonshire.

MARION.

The mainland of Warwickshire is about fifty miles long, and thirty-three broad; but there are also two detached portions belonging to it, one on the south, enclosed by Worcestershire, and one on the south-west, surrounded by parts of Worcestershire and Gloucestershire. Coal and iron ore are its only important mineral productions, and the quantity raised does not amount to more than 335,000 tons of coal, and 48,000 tons of iron ore per annum. Warwickshire, according to Camden, appears to have anciently belonged to the British tribe called Cornavii, and, on its subjugation by the Romans, to have formed part of the province of Flavia Cæsariensis. During the Saxon Heptarchy it was comprehended in the kingdom of Mercia.

HERBERT.

This county, like many others we have noticed, gives proof of the energy and perseverance of the Romans in the ancient roads which intersect it. The famous Roman road known as Watling Street forms a perfect line of separation between it and Leicestershire.

MARION.

Have I not read that the Roman soldiers in time of peace were occupied in road-making?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; it was the policy of their commanders to give them employment, lest by a life of inactivity, they might have leisure to rebel. We have traces of the Romans in different parts of this county; but Warwick, the capital, although a very ancient town, does not appear to have been a Roman station. Can you mention, Katie, a person of high distinction among the Saxons who is said to have patronised it?

KATE.

My new acquaintance Ethelfleda, who restored the town after it had suffered severely from the depredations of the Danes. In her time the donjon or keep of Warwick castle was erected.

MARION.

Is not Warwick Castle one of the finest old buildings in England, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

It is ; this magnificent structure is situated upon a solid freestone rock, which bounds the river Avon, and is perhaps less impaired by time than any other of our ancient fortresses. The keep, which Katie mentioned as having been built in Saxon times, is now only a picturesque ruin ; but there are two towers of great antiquity in excellent preservation. One of these is called "Guy's Tower," and the other "Cæsar's Tower."

WILLIE.

Did Julius Cæsar, the great Roman general, build that tower, mamma ?

MRS. LESLIE.

No, my dear ; in all probability it was not built until several centuries after he had left our island ; but the name "Cæsar's Tower" was often given to one of the principal towers of an old castle, I suppose in memory of that great conqueror.

MARION.

Is any part of Warwick Castle inhabited ?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes ; it is the residence of the Earl of Warwick, and consists of a noble castellated mansion, of majestic and antique appearance, notwithstanding the modern additions that have been made. The state apartments contain several portraits by Vandyke, and other paintings of acknowledged excellence. The grounds, which are kept in beautiful order, are especially deserving of admiration, and with their rich greensward, dark shrubs, and ivy-mantled rocks, contribute greatly to the beauty of the scene.

HERBERT.

I suppose, mamma, that the chief interest attached to Warwick Castle arises from its being regarded as a relic of ancient baronial greatness.

MRS. LESLIE.

In an architectural point of view this noble pile has almost unrivalled claim to notice ; but still, as you say, it is especially interesting when regarded as a memento of an age long passed, and

while contemplating its former grandeur we cannot too fervently rejoice that the feudal system which it calls to mind is abolished, and the days of serfdom and vassalage are at an end.

KATE.

Was the famous Guy, Earl of Warwick, connected with this ancient castle?

MRS. LESLIE.

There are many traditions associated with it relating to the marvellous exploits of that supposed wonderful individual; but most of them are too fabulous to be believed. You know he is said to have been a knight of gigantic strength, who lived in the days of Athelstan, and killed the Danish champion Colbrand in single combat. After that and many daring deeds, of so ridiculous a nature as to be unworthy a place in our national records, he is supposed to have retired to a lovely spot, about a mile from Warwick, and passed the remainder of his life in the seclusion of a hermit's cell. This charming retreat, which still goes by the name of Guy's Cliff, is celebrated for its picturesque beauty. A handsome mansion now stands upon the spot.

HERBERT.

Was it not in this neighbourhood that Piers Gaveston was beheaded?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; on the top of Blacklow Hill, in the immediate vicinity of Guy's Cliff, may be seen a handsome cross, bearing an inscription commemorative of the circumstances of his tragic and untimely end. Gaveston Hill is now the name by which the place is frequently distinguished. But we have unconsciously wandered from the town of Warwick. What can you tell me of that ancient place?

MARION.

In some parts it has more the appearance of a comparatively *modern* place, mamma, as more than one half of the houses of the old town were destroyed by fire in 1694, and were rebuilt in a magnificent style. Warwick is not a place of much commercial

importance, but is frequently the residence of families of distinction. Manufactures of worsted, hats, and silk are carried on, but not to any great extent. The population of Warwick is about 11,000.

MRS. LESLIE.

This county, like Staffordshire, is rather deficient in river navigation, the only navigable river being the Avon, and that is only so for about half the length of its course through the county. It has, however, a number of canals, which, to a great extent, supply the deficiency. The smaller streams of Warwickshire are the Swift, the Sow, the Leam, the Stour, the Teme, and several others.

HERBERT.

I can scarcely understand calling Warwick the county town : I should think that distinction ought to be bestowed on Birmingham.

MRS. LESLIE.

In an industrial and commercial point of view Birmingham certainly is the capital of Warwickshire, and the same might be said of many other towns whose importance is comparatively of recent date, in connection with the counties to which they belong ; but yet one seems to have a feeling of veneration for the time-honoured towns and cities of our native land, with their crumbling castles and ancient records, which all the interest we take in modern manufacturing progress is not able to subdue. No, no ! Herbert, Birmingham with all its vast commercial influence upon our country can never take the place in point of rank of stately Warwick.

MARION.

Birmingham is nevertheless a place of great antiquity in connection with its iron-works, I think, mamma ?

MRS. LESLIE.

Unquestionably, my dear. Indeed it has been supposed that Birmingham, or its immediate vicinity, produced the scythes and war-chariots with which the Britons met Cæsar and his invading army. I should, however, think it more likely that they were made in the Weald of Kent or Sussex, which abounded with iron

in early times. Birmingham, though situated in Warwickshire, is, you see, one of the principal towns in the South Staffordshire or iron mining district.

HERBERT.

I think Birmingham is very little mentioned by early topographers ?

MRS. LESLIE.

You are right ; but there is nevertheless reason to believe that the iron manufacture of this town has existed from very ancient times. William Hutton, who wrote about a century ago, in his *History of Birmingham* speaks of a furnace of great antiquity for melting ironstone and reducing it into pigs. He also speaks of an enormous mountain of cinders, of which he says that "the observer would suppose so prodigious a heap could not accumulate in one hundred generations." From this, as well as other evidence, the antiquity of the iron-works of Birmingham seems to be established. And now what can you tell me of the modern trade of this great manufacturing town ?

WILLIE.

It is noted for its iron and hardware, silver-plated and metal goods.

HERBERT.

About the time of the Restoration the manufactures of Birmingham, which had hitherto been confined to articles of utility, began to combine those of luxury also ; and toys, trinkets, and jewellery were soon made to a vast extent. At the present time this town is unrivalled in the manufacture of swords and fire-arms, buttons, silver-plated goods, brass, metal, and japan ware, as well as in every description of toys and trinkets. The trade in pedlery has increased to such an extent during the last century, that Birmingham is often termed "the great toy-shop of Europe." Pins are also made to a considerable extent.

KATR.

I read the other day that "all the steel pens made in England were manufactured in Birmingham, and a great many of those

professed to be made in France, Germany, and America also." The account stated that "in 1820 the first gross of three-slit pens was sold wholesale at seven pounds four shillings, and that pens of much superior quality are now sold at three shillings and sixpence per gross."

MRS. LESLIE.

Do you remember whether or not the inhabitants of Birmingham manifested any strong party feeling during the civil war, Marion?

MARION.

Yes, mamma; you know the first great battle in which the unfortunate Charles was engaged was at Edge Hill, in this county; on his way thither he marched through Birmingham, when "the townsmen seized his plate and furniture and conveyed it to Warwick Castle." They also refused to make swords for the royalists, while they readily supplied the parliamentarians.

WILLIE.

I suppose Birmingham is a very large place, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, my dear; some fifty or sixty years ago it was considered the largest town in Great Britain, with the exception of London. At the present time both Liverpool and Manchester exceed it in size and population. You will, however, I dare say, think it a very extensive town when I tell you that it contains nearly 233,000 inhabitants.

HERBERT.

I was rather amused, the other day, when reading Boswell's Life of Johnson, to find the small demand there was for literature in the beginning of the last century. It is there related that booksellers' shops were so scarce at that time that there was not one to be found in Birmingham, and that old Mr. Johnson used to open a shop for the sale of books in that town every market-day.

MRS. LESLIE.

A striking contrast, indeed, to the present teeming state of the press!

KATE.

What is the next place we had better mention, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

The ancient city of Coventry certainly, Katie; "the third city in the realm," as it was called in its "high and palmy days." Can you tell me from what its name is supposed to be derived?

KATE.

From a convent which existed on the spot in the times of the Saxons. The last syllable is said to be a corruption of the British word *Tre*, signifying a town.

MRS. LESLIE.

In the reign of Richard the Second this city was encompassed by a wall nine feet thick, and having twelve gates and thirty-two towers for defence. This famous wall, which occupied forty years in construction, was destroyed by order of Charles the Second, in consequence of the opposition manifested by the inhabitants of Coventry to his father during the civil wars.

HERBERT.

Well! I rather like that act of filial regard; it looks like one redeeming point in the profligate Charles's character. Coventry appears to have been a place of great magnificence in olden time, and much celebrated for its public shows and royal entertainments. It is related that Henry the Eighth and Queen Katharine visited this place in 1510, "when there were three pageants set forth," and that Queen Elizabeth, during her "progress" through this part of the kingdom, was received here "with a variety of splendid shows and pageants." Edward the Third and his son the Black Prince frequently resided here; Edward the Fourth, Richard the Third, James the First, and Charles the First were also among the number of its royal visitors. Indeed, so greatly was this city distinguished by royal patronage, that it was honoured by the title of "the chamber of princes."

MARION.

You have omitted to mention Mary Queen of Scots in your royal list, Herbert.

HERBERT.

But I had not forgotten her. I could not mention the poor captive queen in connection with the mirth and revelry which characterised the visits of most of the illustrious persons I have named. It was as a prisoner and not an honoured guest, you know, that the unhappy Mary Stuart visited this city. On two different occasions she was brought to Coventry, and at one time was detained in the parlour of the mayoress, and at another her place of confinement was a public inn.

MRS. LESLIE.

Your mention of an inn reminds me that one of the distinguishing features of Coventry in the days of its renown, was its "great and sumptuous inns," as they are styled by Harrison, a writer of the sixteenth century. These places of public entertainment, he tells us, were "able to lodge 200 or 300 persons and their horses at ease."

KATE.

I suppose Coventry has the appearance of a fine ancient city now, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Most of its architectural glories have been swept away. Its magnificent cathedral and splendid priory were demolished at the Reformation, as well as its various monastic houses; but there is yet enough remaining to give one an idea of its former grandeur. The Guild Hall and St. Michael's Church are noble specimens of ancient architecture, and the old overhanging timber houses and narrow streets, which in many places still exist, denote at once its high antiquity. And now can any of you tell me in what the modern importance of Coventry consists?

KATE.

In its manufacture of ribbons and watches, for which it is greatly celebrated. The trades have very much increased during the last fifty or sixty years.

HERBERT.

The present population of Coventry is about 37,000.

MRS. LESLIE.

Very good! I think Willie must now mention some of the other celebrated places of Warwickshire.

WILLIE.

Stratford-upon-Avon, Leamington, and Rugby, are in this county, mamma.

MRS. LESLIE.

How naturally the name of our immortal bard associates itself with the mention of Stratford-upon-Avon! I dare say even Willie can tell me who was the great poet that was born there?

WILLIE.

William Shakspeare, mamma.

MRS. LESLIE.

Shakspeare was born in the reign of Elizabeth, in 1564. Like many other of our great geniuses, he seems to have received but little benefit from education, what instruction he had being derived from the free school of his native town. His father was a dealer in wool, and he himself, it is believed, was brought up to the homely occupation of wool-combing; but all outward circumstances were powerless to crush that mighty genius, which has made his name one of the most familiar of our "household words."

KATE.

I have read that Shakspeare was once engaged in deer-stealing. Do you think it is correct, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

I fear the accounts are too well authenticated to admit of a doubt that such was the fact, and while we cannot but deplore that such a stain should be upon the memory of our national bard, it may serve to teach us that the most lofty mental endowments are insufficient to keep us from falling in the hour of temptation,

unless they are united with those moral principles which proceed from that "fear of the Lord, which is the beginning of wisdom." At the time of Shakspeare's delinquency, he was a very young man, and by becoming associated with some profligate companions, was led to engage in robbing the park of Sir Thomas Lucy, a gentleman who resided near Stratford. As there is no other stigma on his fame, we may infer that he saw the evil of such conduct and forsook it. Some of the passages in his works breathe sentiments full of moral purity.

MARION.

I suppose Stratford-upon-Avon has been more visited than the birthplace of any other English poet ?

MRS. LESLIE.

Without doubt, my dear. Travellers from almost every land, from the peasant to the prince, have engaged in a kind of pilgrimage to the old gable-roofed house in Henley Street, of late occupied as a tavern and a butcher's shop ; and to which they were directed by a sign-board bearing this inscription : "The immortal Shakspeare was born in this house." To give you an idea of the veneration with which his memory is regarded by his countrymen, I need only tell you that this humble tenement was purchased by the nation in 1851, for the enormous sum of 3000*l*. Thus, this ancient memento of departed genius is now the public property of our country. The scenery around Stratford is picturesque, but the town is not particularly worthy of note, except for its association with the name of Shakspeare. It contains upwards of 3000 inhabitants. We will now direct our thoughts to Leamington.

MARION.

Leamington Priors, I find, is generally taken in connection with the fashionable watering-place called Leamington Spa. This town, which is greatly celebrated for its mineral springs, is situated on the river Leam, from which it takes its name, about two miles from Warwick. It was formerly a small village, but is now a favourite resort for visitors. Its population is about 15,000.

KATE.

Rugby is a market town pleasantly situated on a hill on the south bank of the river Avon. It is chiefly celebrated for its public school, which was founded in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, by Lawrence Sheriffe, a citizen of London.

HERBERT.

I believe Rugby has long been one of our best conducted public schools.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes. In 1828 a new era in its history commenced under the government of the late excellent Dr. Arnold. Before that time practical Christianity had been too much lost sight of in the education of the boys, a defect which had necessarily resulted in the prevalence of a low moral tone. To remedy this and other evils, Dr. Arnold, on his appointment as head master, set to work with all the earnestness and energy which so eminently characterised him; and the high christian principles which he inculcated during his fourteen years' superintendence of the school, produced the most beneficial results, both in its moral and social state. We cannot pass a higher encomium on the discipline observed at Rugby at the present time, than to say of that eminent scholar and divine, "He being dead yet speaketh."

HERBERT.

Kenilworth is about five miles from Warwick, and the same distance from Coventry. Its castle, which now only consists of a picturesque pile of ruins, is traced back to Saxon times. The original fortress, it is said, was destroyed in the reign of the Danish king, Canute, and the present structure commenced about a century later. It was considerably enlarged and improved by John of Gaunt, and was united to the crown with the possessions of his son Henry Bolingbroke, when that nobleman came to the throne under the title of Henry the Fourth. Kenilworth Castle continued royal property from that period until the reign of Elizabeth, by whom it was bestowed upon her favourite, Robert Dudley, Earl of

Leicester, who entertained his sovereign in its ancient halls for seventeen days in a style of unexampled magnificence.

KATE.

I hope, mamma, you are going to give us some account of the way in which the Earl of Leicester entertained Queen Elizabeth.

MRS. LESLIE.

I am afraid a great part of the entertainment would not be very interesting or edifying, even if it were intelligible to you, Katie. But I may just tell you that there were stag-huntings, bear-baitings, morris-dancing, grand displays of fireworks, and withal such deafening sounds of trumpets, fifes, and kettle-drums, that one might suppose her majesty must have been distracted with the clamour.

HERBERT.

You have not mentioned the classical pageants, mamma, with their heathen divinities, tritons, nymphs, and satyrs.

KATE.

Oh! pray, give us some description of a pageant. Was it not a sort of theatrical representation performed out of doors?

MRS. LESLIE.

It was, and though a costly, was a very silly kind of entertainment. Those displayed at Kenilworth on this occasion appear to have had reference principally to heathen mythology, and mystic subjects expressive of adulation and homage to the queen. Sometimes an allegorical subject was impersonated, in which some slight moral lesson was conveyed; but I believe the principal merit of these representations consisted in their pomp and show. They appear, however, to have been favourite entertainments of Queen Elizabeth, as during her "progresses" pageants were displayed in almost every town.

MARION.

Was a *mystery* the same kind of entertainment as a pageant?

MRS. LESLIE.

They were very similar, but the former was decidedly the more objectionable amusement of the two, inasmuch as the subjects were taken from the sacred Scriptures, and were mixed up with a great deal of buffoonery and mummery. One celebrated *mystery* embraced the greater part of the history of the Bible, and occupied eight days in its performance. These solemn mockeries of sacred subjects were sometimes called *miracles*: they were always performed in churches, the monks, friars, and other ecclesiastics being the chief actors.

KATE.

How shocking it seems for the clergy to have treated the Scriptures with so little reverence. I am glad we do not live in such unholy times.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, we have great reason to be thankful, but still it becomes us, as a nation, to "rejoice with trembling." It is true our national taste is more refined, our amusements more intellectual, than those of our ancestors; the due observance of the Sabbath is more regarded, the Bible is, or might be, in every home, and I trust I may add that "pure and undefiled religion" to a great extent prevails; but still our position is far below our privileges; and when we turn to the dark side of the picture, and look upon our penal settlements, our prisons, our police reports, I think we shall find more cause for humility than exultation. May it, my dear children, be our earnest prayer, that God would bestow the abundance of His grace upon our beloved England; and cause her teeming population to act upon the conviction that "righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people."

CONVERSATION XI.

WORCESTERSHIRE.

SUBJECTS : — Boundaries. — Size. — Early Inhabitants. — Principal Hills. — Rivers. — City of Worcester. — Its Antiquity. — Destruction by Danes. — Other Vicissitudes. — Battle of Worcester. — Charles the Second. — Cathedral. — Porcelain Manufacture. — Royal Porcelain Works. — Elegant Productions. — Ingredients used, and Method of Manufacture. — Manufacture of Gloves. — A Glove an ancient Symbol. — Dudley. — Nail-making. — Ruins of ancient Castle. — Picturesque Dell and Limestone Caverns. — Stourbridge. — Manufacture of Fire-bricks. — Kidderminster. — Manufactures. — Mrs. Sherwood. — Warren Hastings. — Malvern. — Droitwich. — Annual Produce of Brine Springs. — Redditch. — Needle Manufacture. — By whom introduced. — Evesham. — Historical Recollections. — Origin of British Parliaments. — Glorious Constitution of the British Empire.

“WHAT an exquisitely chaste brooch, mamma, dear !” exclaimed Marion, as, memoranda in hand, she approached the table at which Mrs. Leslie was sitting, on the morning fixed for the conversation on Worcestershire.

“You doubtless wonder in what way that lovely wreath of convolvuluses is connected with this morning’s study?” was the smiling reply.

“I do indeed, mamma. How delicate and pure it looks! Is it made of alabaster?”

“Wait till Willie has given us his usual information concerning the chief town of this county, and I will then introduce the subject of the brooch,” returned Mrs. Leslie.

“ Oh ! now I know what it is made of at once, mamma. That beautiful white, semi-transparent substance, which I took for alabaster, must be the fine porcelain for which Worcester is celebrated.”

“ You have nearly guessed right, my dear ; this elegant brooch is composed of Parian ware, one of the most delicate kinds of porcelain. It was made at the ‘ Royal Porcelain Works,’ Worcester, and will give you some little idea of the decorative nature of a large portion of their manufactures, as well as of the perfection to which the art of pottery has attained. But, as I think the maxim of ‘ a place for everything, and everything in its place,’ may be as well applied to mental exercises, as to material objects, it will be better for us at once to inquire what are the boundaries and size of Worcestershire ? ”

WILLIE.

It is bounded on the north by Staffordshire and Shropshire, on the east by Warwickshire, on the south by Gloucestershire, and on the west by Herefordshire.

HERBERT.

The greatest length of Worcestershire is about twenty-nine miles, and its extreme breadth twenty-two miles, but there are three detached portions belonging to it, the most important of which is to the north, and contains the town of Dudley.

MARION.

This county also appears to have formed part of the territories of the Cornavii. It possesses many evidences of its occupation by the Romans, by whom it was included in the province of Flavia Cæsariensis. During the Saxon Heptarchy it was distinguished as the principal ecclesiastical see of Mercia.

HERBERT.

Worcestershire has ranges of hills along the eastern and western sides. The celebrated Malvern hills are along the south-western border, and divide Worcestershire from Herefordshire. This

range of hills is nine miles in length. The most elevated parts are those called the Worcestershire and Herefordshire Brecons. The height of the former is 1300 feet, and that of the latter 1260 feet. The Lickey hills, in the north-western part of the county, consist of a range of lofty eminences, some of them upwards of 900 feet in height. These were formerly entirely wild and uncultivated, but some years ago were enclosed, and considerably improved. The mineral productions of this county have been noticed in connection with those of South Staffordshire. The central part of the county is of a flat and fertile character, and abounds in hop-gardens and orchards.

MRS. LESLIE.

I wonder whether Willie can tell me the chief rivers of Worcestershire, and for what the county is famed?

WILLIE.

The chief rivers are the Severn, the Avon, and the Teme, and the county is famed for cider and perry.

KATE.

It is also celebrated for its mineral springs. Those of Malvern are the most esteemed.

MARION.

"The good city of Worcester" is considered one of the most pleasant-looking cities of England. Its early history is somewhat obscure, but yet its name denotes that it was formerly a Roman station, as the termination *cester* was only given by the Saxons to the places which they found fortified. There have also been Roman antiquities of different kinds found in the neighbourhood.

KATE.

What dreadful havoc those wicked Danes committed when they invaded England. Worcester was another of the cities they destroyed in the reign of Alfred the Great. It was rebuilt by Ethelred.

MRS. LESLIE.

The early history of this ancient city is one continued succession of misfortunes. Worcester was six times wholly or partially destroyed by fire during foreign invasion and intestine wars, previous to the end of the thirteenth century; and even after that period, it seems to have been the scene of more than ordinary calamities. About the middle of the fourteenth century it suffered greatly from pestilence; and at the commencement of the fifteenth was burnt and pillaged by the troops of Owen Glendower. In the civil wars of Charles the First, it was devoted to the royal cause, and was the first city that openly espoused the cause of the king; and it was the scene of that decisive battle, which made Charles the Second a wanderer in the kingdom of his ancestors. Can you mention the circumstances which led to the memorable battle of Worcester, Marion?

MARION.

Oh! yes, mamma. At the time of the execution of Charles the First, his son, the Prince of Wales, was living at the Hague, being then about twenty years of age. Upon the news of his father's death, he took the title of Charles the Second, and immediately embarked for Scotland, with the determination of fighting his way to the throne.

HERBERT.

It is well you are not living in Cromwell's time, Marion. Don't you remember that the son of Charles the First was only allowed to be called Charles Stuart, and that it was treason to speak of him as Prince of Wales?

MARION.

But he *was* Prince of Wales, though, notwithstanding Cromwell's endeavours to rob him of his birthright. I am sure I should have been a royalist if I had lived in those days, let what would have come of it! But, as I was saying, Charles landed in Scotland, and was crowned at Scone, and having succeeded in collecting an army of 14,000 men, marched to Carlisle, where he was proclaimed king; but he was soon greatly disappointed in his endeavours to carry out the bold resolution he had formed. He

found very little encouragement even from those who wished him well, so completely were they overawed by Cromwell's party ; but though dispirited, Charles marched on to Worcester, hoping that many might be led to join him by the way. Such, however, was not the case, and when he was met by the vigorous and well-disciplined troops of Cromwell, a most unequal contest ensued, and Charles, with a few trusty friends, was soon compelled to seek safety in flight. This victory, Cromwell used to call his "crowning mercy." He soon after dissolved the "long parliament," and took upon himself the entire government of the kingdom.

MRS. LESLIE.

Well done, Marion! You have remembered the circumstances attending the defeat of Charles the Second so well, that I think we must look to you to follow his fallen fortunes when we come to Shropshire, the next county we shall notice. And now let us consider Worcester as it appears at the present time.

HERBERT.

It is a respectable-looking city, with a population of about 28,000. The houses are built principally of red brick. The cathedral, churches, and some public buildings, are of a reddish kind of sandstone. The cathedral is the chief object of attraction in an architectural point of view ; and although presenting several varieties of style, is universally admired for the lightness and elegant simplicity of its construction. In the middle of the choir is the tomb of King John, who was buried there. The present cathedral was built by St. Wulstan, a pious monk of the eleventh century, but several additions have since been made.

MARION.

I suppose the next subject for our consideration is the porcelain manufacture ?

MRS. LESLIE.

It is ; and first I must tell you, that while Staffordshire is principally noted for the extent of its works, Worcestershire is especially celebrated for the elegance and delicacy of its productions.

KATE.

I am sure this beautiful brooch is a proof of that. Can you tell us of what Parian ware is composed, and give us any idea how such delicate articles are made, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Cornish stone, Cornish clay, and feldspar, a beautiful crystal mineral found in Sweden, Spain, Ireland, and America, are the principal ingredients used in Parian ware. These substances are ground together to a fine powder, which is mixed with water, to the consistency of cream, then dried and worked with the hand in the same manner in which you have seen your cousins make wax flowers. But you must not suppose that articles of which this little *bijou* is a specimen, are the only kind of goods made at the "Royal Porcelain Works" in this city. Magnificent vases, dinner, tea, and dessert services, bowls, cups and jars of the most costly porcelain, are among the number of its vast productions.

MARION.

I suppose such articles are not made in the same way as brooches, and other delicate things?

MRS. LESLIE.

The ingredients are prepared in the same manner, and consist of calcined flint, Cornish stone, Cornish clay, and calcined bone all ground together, and mixed with water, so as to form a smooth liquid or plastic clay, according to the purposes for which it is required. But as I told you when speaking of the Staffordshire potteries, I fear I should fail in endeavouring to give you any idea of the process of manufacture. All these things must be seen to be clearly understood.

KATE.

Oh! please mamma to tell us something about it. I am sure we should gain some knowledge from your description.

MRS. LESLIE.

Well then, Katie, you must understand that cups, basins, and

all vessels of a circular form, are produced by the "potter's wheel," the concavity or convexity of the vessel being fashioned by the thumbs and fingers of the potter in a singularly dexterous and skilful manner. A turning lathe is also used for many ornamental articles which could not acquire a proper shape simply by the "potter's wheel."

HERBERT.

But surely some things are made in moulds, mamma, for I have certainly heard of "mould-makers," in connection with the porcelain manufacture?

MRS. LESLIE.

You are right. There are some articles of such extreme elegance and beauty, that neither the "potter's wheel" nor turning lathe is able to produce them. These are made in moulds formed after models constructed according to the skill and fancy of the modeller to the establishment.

HERBERT.

I should think modelling must be a very important and interesting branch of the manufacture.

MRS. LESLIE.

Indeed I quite agree with you, and I may add that it is suitable only for a person of refined and cultivated taste, as it is entirely owing to the beauty of conception, and propriety of his designs, that the liquid or plastic clay is capable of being converted into such a charming variety of elegant productions. I should tell you that the moulds being made of plaster of Paris, which has a peculiar affinity to water, the moisture from the clay is readily absorbed, and a solid substance produced answering to the form of the mould. It is then taken out, placed in a receptacle technically called a "seggar," and baked in a "biscuit kiln."

KATE.

I wonder why these works are called the "Royal Porcelain Works." Has our good Queen ever paid a visit to them?

MRS. LESLIE.

The distinguished title was given to this manufactory, and a royal charter or patent granted to it by George the Third, who visited it with Queen Charlotte. Our own Queen also inspected these celebrated works, when Princess Victoria, in company with her mother, the Duchess of Kent. The Worcester porcelain has been more patronised by the various crowned heads of Europe, and other persons of high distinction, than any other made in England.

MARION.

I suppose there are other porcelain manufactories in Worcester, besides the one we have been speaking of?

MRS. LESLIE.

There is one other, where they make an article called semi-porcelain. And now let us turn to another branch of industry, for which Worcester has been celebrated nearly 300 years, I mean the manufacture of gloves. Can you tell me, Willie, what kind of gloves are made at Worcester?

WILLIE.

Kid gloves are made there now, mamma, but a long time ago beaver gloves were principally made.

HERBERT.

I have seen it stated, that the glove trade of Worcester has somewhat declined of late years, in consequence of the increased facilities afforded for the importation of French gloves.

MRS. LESLIE.

I believe the decline of the trade, so far indeed as it exists, is more to be attributed to the introduction of cotton gloves, which are now made in large quantities at Nottingham and Leicester. I have been informed that the importation of foreign gloves, so far from being prejudicial to our own manufacture, has certainly improved it by causing a salutary competition.

MARION.

I was very much interested by an article I met with yesterday, in which the various uses to which the glove has been applied in different countries was brought to notice.

KATE.

What *can* gloves be used for besides as coverings for the hands?

MARION.

If you think a minute, Katie, you will remember one purpose with which you have long been familiar, to which a glove used formerly to be applied on the king's coronation.

KATE.

Oh! yes; I learnt long ago in Mangnall's Questions that "on the king's coronation day the Champion of England used to ride up Westminster Hall on a white horse, proclaiming the sovereign by his usual titles; he then threw down a gauntlet (or iron glove), challenging any one to take it up and fight him, who did not believe the monarch then present to be lawful heir to the crown."

MRS. LESLIE.

The glove in that instance, you see, is used as an emblem of defiance; and in like manner it has been the pledge of friendship or hatred, of loyalty or degradation, according to the age or country in which the different customs in connection with it have been observed. In the days of chivalry, the glove of a lady worn in the helmet of a knight was considered a very honourable token, and one which was supposed to augur well for the success of the knight who possessed it. Our own form of presenting gloves to the guests at weddings and funerals is doubtless a relic of ancient times, and seems to symbolise friendly hospitality. But it is quite time we left the city of Worcester.

WILLIE.

I know I may now name some other places. Dudley and

Stourbridge, noted for iron works, Kidderminster, for carpets, and Malvern, for its medicinal waters, are all in Worcestershire.

HERBERT.

Dudley is quite on the confines of South Staffordshire, and partakes of the general character of that district, coal and iron being its principal productions. It contains about 38,000 inhabitants. I believe nail-making is one of the principal occupations of the working classes in the neighbourhood of Dudley.

MRS. LESLIE.

It is; and one in which women are employed as well as men. We should think it strange here, to see a woman wielding the hammer at the anvil; but such is a very common sight in the neighbourhood of Dudley. The nailers have small forges attached to their own houses, where they carry on their manual occupation.

MARION.

The picturesque ruins of Dudley Castle are spoken of as a favourite retreat from the noise and smoke of that busy district, and are particularly celebrated for their limestone caverns, which for beauty and singularity are considered almost to equal those of Derbyshire.

MRS. LESLIE.

There is one particular spot in the grounds belonging to the castle to which visitors are attracted by its extreme beauty. I mean a deep ravine or rocky dell, covered with luxuriant vegetation. It has every appearance of a natural valley surrounded by rugged rocks: geologists are, however, of opinion, that this apparent natural glen is entirely the result of excavation, and that it was at one time an extensive lime quarry, which the long lapse of years has clothed with verdure. But now let us briefly notice Stourbridge.

KATE.

Stourbridge derives its name from a bridge over the Stour, on which river the town is built. This place abounds in coal and

ironstone. It is also noted for a particular kind of clay, with which fire-bricks are made. These bricks, which are used for building furnaces and ovens, are known all over the country by the name of "Stourbridge bricks."

MRS. LESLIE.

There are some extensive glass works in the vicinity of the town; the sand required in the manufacture being found 150 feet below the surface of the earth. The population of Stourbridge is nearly 8000.

MARION.

Kidderminster is a town containing nearly 24,000 inhabitants. In the reign of Henry the Eighth it was principally celebrated for woollen cloths, and afterwards for linsey woolsey. At a later period, for crapes, bombazines, and poplins. The kind of carpeting known as Kidderminster, was first made in this town. Brussels carpeting is also manufactured here to a considerable extent.

KATE.

Was not Mrs. Sherwood born at Kidderminster?

MRS. LESLIE.

Her father, the Rev. George Butt, was vicar of Kidderminster, and rector of Stanford, in this county; but the latter was the birth-place of your first favourite author. She was born at Stanford, in 1775, and died in 1851, at Twickenham.

WILLIE.

Do you mean the lady who wrote "Henry and his Bearer," and those pretty stories about the Church catechism, that I am so fond of reading?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, my dear. She also wrote "The Fairchild Family," "Henry Milner," and a great many other nice books for little people. She may, I am sure, be called the children's friend.

MARION.

Did not Mrs. Sherwood spend some part of her life in India ?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes. She married her cousin, Henry Sherwood, an officer in the army, and about two years afterwards accompanied her husband to India, where she exerted herself to the utmost for the spiritual welfare of the soldiers and natives by whom she was surrounded. Thus she became acquainted with those particulars of Indian and barrack life, with which you have been so much delighted in some of her interesting works. But here I am reminded of another distinguished individual, who was born in this county, and passed a great portion of his life in India. I allude to Warren Hastings, the first Governor-General of Bengal.

HERBERT.

I thought you did. I have just been reading his life to Dr. Winstanley. It is such an interesting work, written by Macaulay.

MRS. LESLIE.

Then of course you can give us a little sketch of it.

HERBERT.

Warren Hastings was born in 1732, at Daylesford, in this county, and was descended from an ancient but impoverished family, which had been brought to ruin by its loyalty to Charles the First. He was early left an orphan, and entrusted to the care of his paternal grandfather, a very poor clergyman resident at Daylesford. He received his early education at the village school with the children of the neighbouring peasants, but at eight years old was sent to Newington, and afterwards to Westminster School, where he formed a lasting friendship with the poet Cowper. At the age of seventeen he entered the service of the East India Company as a writer, and sailed for Bengal. He devoted himself diligently to the duties of his situation, and was soon distinguished for his great abilities, and engaged as a diplomatic agent during the war of Surajah

Dowlah against the English. This event led to his subsequent greatness ; but I cannot repeat all the circumstances which intervened between it and his becoming governor of Bengal.

MRS. LESLIE.

Nor should we have time now to hear them, if you could. Your sisters will most probably one day read his history themselves, when they will become acquainted with his merits and defects. I may conclude your short account, by telling them that after rendering most important services to the state, and ruling over fifty millions of Asiatics, Warren Hastings was at last impeached of high crimes and misdemeanors, and after a trial, which lasted nearly eight years, acquitted ; and that he passed the remainder of his days in retirement, amid the scenes of his early youth, at Daylesford.

HERBERT.

Our next town, Great Malvern, is celebrated for its natural beauties, salubrious air, and medicinal waters ; and is greatly frequented by invalids.

MARION.

But Malvern is not a town, is it, Herbert ? I have seen it described as a picturesque village.

HERBERT.

Villages soon grow into towns in these days of progress, and in the last census returns it is so denominated. Its population was then 3911.

MRS. LESLIE.

There is a village called Little Malvern, about three miles south of Great Malvern, between which places the celebrated springs called St. Ann's Well and Holy Well are situated. Malvern has been much noted of late years for its hydropathic or "cold water cure" establishments. Now let us notice some other towns of Worcestershire.

MARION.

Droitwich and Stoke are celebrated for their brine-springs,

which are said to be the strongest in England. They now produce annually 190,000 tons of salt.

HERBERT.

Redditch is noted for its manufacture of needles and fish-hooks.

KATE.

I have heard old nurse speak of "Whitechapel sharps," but I do not remember ever to have heard of Redditch needles.

MRS. LESLIE.

Never heard of Redditch needles, Katie! That little secluded hamlet in Worcestershire is the principal seat of the needle manufacture of England, by whatever name they may be called. I dare say I should not be very wrong in saying that nurse's favourite "Whitechapel sharps" were made there.

KATE.

I wonder when, and by whom, needles were invented?

MRS. LESLIE.

There appears to be some doubt about it, but it is generally believed that they were introduced into England by a Spanish negro in Queen Mary's reign; but as he died without disclosing the secret of his art, it was lost until 1566, when Elias Growse, a German, taught it to the English.

MARION.

Evesham in this county was formerly celebrated for its beautiful abbey, which contained 164 pillars, and 15 altars, besides the high altar.

HERBERT.

Evesham is also distinguished for its historical recollections. It was the scene of a memorable battle in the reign of Henry the Third, between Prince Edward, afterwards Edward the First, and Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester.

MRS. LESLIE.

We should like you to mention the circumstances which led to that battle.

HERBERT.

Oh ! mamma, it was just the same old story that we talked about a week or two ago,—foreign favourites, and exasperated English barons. Henry the Third, who was a weak and capricious sovereign, gave great offence to the barons by his extravagance, and lavish generosity to foreign courtiers, in consequence of which he was often obliged to apply to the nation for money. A rebellion ensued, headed by one of the very favourites Henry had cast off, Simon de Montfort, a most ambitious man. It lasted six years, during which the king had a hard matter to resist the usurped power of De Montfort and the barons. In the mean time Prince Edward, his eldest son, was growing up, and having more ability and courage than his father, at length took up arms against them, and finally defeated them at Evesham on the 4th of May, 1265.

MRS. LESLIE.

Very good. This Simon de Montfort was the originator of our national representative assembly—the House of Commons. If you remember, he ordered returns of four knights from every shire to meet the barons, with a view of redressing the grievances of their respective districts, and strengthening his own power against the king. “The first commons were assembled to meet the king in parliament in 1258.”

MARION.

I think this illustrates, what you sometimes tell us, mamma, that good often arises out of apparent evil. It was certainly very wrong for a king to be so fickle and foolish as Henry the Third, and it could not be right for Simon de Montfort to endeavour to usurp his power and authority ; but I suppose the establishment of the British parliament has been of great service to the nation.

MRS. LESLIE.

It has, indeed. And it would be well for us to consider in what

way a parliament is of such great benefit. Its name itself denotes its nature. The word parliament is derived from the words *parler la ment*, which, in the Norman law style that then prevailed, means to speak one's mind. Freedom of speech is then the first and highest privilege of our national assembly. A parliament, you know, is composed of king, lords, and commons. The House of Commons is composed of members sent by the different counties and boroughs of our land to represent the people, and these members bring certain bills before the house, by which our rights and liberties are secured, and our laws from time to time amended. I should further tell you that every measure introduced must pass both houses of parliament, and finally receive the royal assent, before it is recognised as the law of the land.

HERBERT.

I have been thinking, mamma, that members of parliament exercise the privilege of speaking their minds pretty freely, if one may judge from such portions of a debate as papa sometimes reads aloud to you.

MRS. LESLIE.

Very true, Herbert. But sometimes a stormy debate leads to important results ; and I trust our legislators have the public welfare at heart, although they may not always be unanimous as to the best manner of promoting it. Here, however, the excellence of our representative system is seen, as by sending our own members to parliament, who pledge themselves as to the measures they will support, each constituent may be said to have a voice in the national assembly.

With a limited monarchy, and a representative parliament, England has indeed reason to rejoice in her glorious constitution.

We have exceeded our usual time, and I can only add that Shropshire is to be the next county for consideration.

CONVERSATION XII.

SHROPSHIRE.

SUBJECTS :—Boundaries.—Size.—Ancient Inhabitants.—Natural Features.—Principal Mountains.—Rivers.—Mineral Produce.—Colebrook Dale.—First Iron Bridge in England.—Shrewsbury.—Derivation of Name.—Ethelfleda.—Ancient prevalence of Mints in England.—Historical Recollections of Shrewsbury.—Norman Rapacity.—Lords Marchers.—Origin of Numerous Castles.—Manufactures of Shrewsbury.—Bridgenorth.—Leaning Tower of Castle.—Trade of Town.—Ludlow Castle.—Historical Associations.—Glove Trade.—Oswestry.—Whittington Castle.—Tale of Chivalry and Knighthood.—Sketch of a Tournament.—Ruins of Abbeys.—Boscobel House.—Wanderings of Charles the Second.—Destinies of his Family.—Earthenware and China Works.—Richard Baxter.—Imprisonment for Conscience' Sake.—Celebrated Works.

“I WONDER why there are the ruins of more old castles in Shropshire than in any other English county, and what is the reason they are principally along the western border,” said Kate Leslie, laying down a book which she had been perusing; “can you tell me, mamma?”

“I think you will be able to answer that yourself, Katie, before we have proceeded far with our investigation into the history of this county,” replied her mother; “therefore we will leave that subject for the present, in order to obtain the usual introductory information.”

MARION.

Shropshire is an inland county bordering on Wales, and is bounded on the north by Cheshire, and part of Flintshire; on the

east by Staffordshire; on the west by Montgomeryshire and Denbighshire; and on the south by Worcestershire, Herefordshire, and part of Radnorshire. Its greatest length is forty-six miles, and its breadth thirty-seven miles.

The most ancient inhabitants of this county, of whom we have any account, were the Cornavii, and the Ordovices, two British tribes, whose territories were divided by the Severn. After the Roman subjugation of the county, it was included in the province of Flavia Cæsariensis, and during the Saxon Heptarchy formed part of the kingdom of Mercia.

HERBERT.

The general appearance of this county is diversified. It is divided into two nearly equal parts by the Severn, which is its principal river. The scenery of the south-western district partakes of the mountainous character of the Welsh counties, by which it is bounded, while the northern and western division is an extensive plain, having only here and there a few solitary hills and finely-wooded valleys. Shropshire abounds in oak timber, of which it is supposed to contain more than any other district in England of equal size.

MRS. LESLIE.

I think Willie can mention the principal mountains of Shropshire, and also the chief rivers.

WILLIE.

The Wrekin is the principal mountain, mamma, and the Severn the only important river. There are, however, a great many smaller ones, the principal of which are the Teme, the Culm, and the Onny.

MRS. LESLIE.

Quite right, Willie. The Wrekin, which stands alone, and rises 1320 feet above the sea, is at the northern extremity of the Caradoc range, and is a conspicuous object in the scenery of the surrounding country. Can you mention the chief mineral productions of Shropshire?

WILLIE.

Coal, iron, and lead.

MRS. LESLIE.

Very good, Willie. Upwards of 752,000 tons of coal are annually produced from the mines of this county. In 1856, more than 335,000 tons of iron-ore were raised, which produced nearly 110,000 tons of pig-iron.

KATE.

Is much lead procured from Shropshire, mamma ?

MRS. LESLIE.

About 3200 tons per annum, but it is wholly destitute of silver.

KATE.

The largest iron-works in England are those of Colebrook Dale in this county.

HERBERT.

Colebrook Dale is a valley of the Severn. In its vast manufactories the art of ornamental iron-casting has been brought to the highest state of perfection that it has yet attained in England. I find that it was here that coke was first used on a large scale, as a substitute for charcoal, in the manufacture of iron.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes ; we see in that circumstance an illustration of the old adage, that "Necessity is the mother of invention." About the middle of the last century the iron trade of this county was in a depressed state, in consequence of an enactment forbidding the cutting down of timber for the smelting of iron. The reason of such enactment was the immense destruction of timber that had previously taken place. The experiment of smelting with coke produced from pit-coal was then tried with much success.

KATE.

I have read that the first iron bridge in England was constructed at Colebrook Dale. It was raised over the Severn at

Madely in this district, in 1779. It consists of one arch with a span of 100 feet. The total weight of iron used was upwards of 378 tons.

MRS. LESLIE.

Well stated, Katie. Now, Willie, tell us the name of the county town.

MARION.

I was just going to observe that immense quantities of nails are made at Wellington, in the neighbourhood of Colebrook Dale.

WILLIE.

Shrewsbury is the chief town, on the river Severn.

HERBERT.

There does not appear to be any well-authenticated account of the origin of this town. It is generally supposed to have been founded by the Britons while they were struggling against the Saxons, in the fifth century.

MRS. LESLIE.

A very probable conjecture, in the absence of direct evidence. The name is unquestionably of Saxon derivation, and signifies a town in a "scrubby or bushy spot." It is recorded that Ethelfleda founded the collegiate church of St. Alkmund, and that Athelstan established a mint here.

KATE.

How much we have lately met with about Ethelfleda; I had never heard of her before we commenced these conversations, and now I seem to know her character almost as well as that of Queen Elizabeth or Mary.

WILLIE.

What did you mean by a mint, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

A mint is a place where money is coined, my dear. There was

formerly a mint in almost every county in Great Britain, but the only one now existing is in London.

KATE.

Shrewsbury is a very pleasant place, is it not, mamma ?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, my dear. It is delightfully situated upon the river Severn, which flows round three sides of the town, and is embellished with several lovely promenades. The architectural attractions of Shrewsbury are also of a high order, and embrace the magnificent ruins of its ancient castle, the Abbey church, with its exquisitely beautiful "Reader's Pulpit," the Guild-house, and several churches, whose elaborate decorations and rich sculpture may vie with any ecclesiastical edifices in the kingdom.

HERBERT.

Shrewsbury was a scene of continual conflict between the English and Welsh, up to the year 1282, when Edward the First defeated and killed Llewellyn, the prince of Wales, and annexed that county to England.

MRS. LESLIE.

Suppose we go back from that time to the days of William the Conqueror, and see in what way that rapacious sovereign acted towards the ancient possessors of the soil, along the Welsh border. The first event which I recollect relates to the earldom of Shrewsbury, which was bestowed by William upon one of his Norman followers, named Roger de Montgomery. It is related that that nobleman erected a castle at Shrewsbury, and that fifty-one houses were demolished in order to make room for it.

HERBERT.

Well ! really, William the Norman seems to have divided the estates of England among his own people, without much regard to the subjugated Anglo-Saxons. It is not to be wondered at that they so much disliked him as their king.

MRS. LESLIE.

True, Herbert. The wisest of men tells us that "the throne is established by righteousness;" therefore such cruelty and injustice as William practised for the gratification of his own ambition, and the aggrandisement of his nobles, must have been highly displeasing both to God and man. This unjust appropriation was carried on on a very extended scale along the border of Wales, and as the Welsh would not submit to these encroachments, they soon assailed the city of Shrewsbury, in such numbers that the whole Norman army, with William at its head, was required to repel them.

MARION.

Did they afterwards submit to the Conqueror, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

He managed to keep them in subjection by investing power in certain of his nobles who had been victorious against them, and whom he permitted to hold such lands as they were able to secure. These noblemen were called Lords or Barons Marchers, and their duty was to guard the frontier. For a long period they maintained as absolute dominion over the border country, as the king maintained in other parts.

KATE.

Why! those Lords Marchers must be the very same kind of petty sovereigns as the chief officers in the counties palatine. You are only introducing them under a new title, mamma!

MRS. LESLIE.

Their power and privileges were very similar, Katie, as well as the circumstances that required their appointment. The Lords Marchers, however, although very despotic to those under their authority, were themselves required to be in subjection to the king. They were compelled to assist him in his wars when called upon, and to keep their castles well fortified for the defence of his as well as their own territories.

KATE.

Oh! I see now why there were so many castles along the western border of this county. They were, of course, to defend it from the Welsh.

MRS. LESLIE.

I expected you would have discovered that before this time, Katie. Yes, most of the ancient castles which are left, as well as many which have quite fallen to decay, are, without doubt, to be ascribed to those formidable barons, who may be said to have ruled the surrounding country with an iron hand.

KATE.

Why were they called *Marchers*, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

The word is derived from the Saxon word *mearc*, which signifies a mark, and was applied to the divisions or boundaries of counties. These divisions were called marches, and hence the term *Marchers* was given to their supreme Lords. Do you remember, Marion, a celebrated battle which was fought at Shrewsbury, in the reign of Henry the Fourth, in which the renowned Harry Hotspur fell?

MARION.

Yes, mamma, it was caused by a conspiracy to dethrone the king. I know Harry Hotspur was one of the conspirators, but I forget who the others were.

HERBERT.

Owen Glendower, a Welsh gentleman, and Earl Douglas, a Scotchman. The king, with an army of 14,000 men, met the insurgents at Shrewsbury; their army was not only equal to the king's, but contained a considerable number of Cheshire men, who were famed for their skill in archery: for some hours the victory seemed doubtful; but, at length, Hotspur was killed, Douglas taken prisoner, and the royal army left in possession of the field.

WILLIE.

What a funny name Hotspur is!

HERBERT.

It was given to its owner for his fiery or passionate temper.

MRS. LESLIE.

Before we leave Shrewsbury we may briefly mention that in the wars of the Roses, its inhabitants were firm Yorkists, and in the civil wars of Charles the First they maintained a staunch adherence to the royal cause, and assisted the king as far as possible by contributions of money and plate.

KATE.

Is Shrewsbury an important town now, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, my dear, it has extensive manufactories of linen, thread, iron, and brawn. It is also greatly celebrated for its cakes. The population of the town is about 20,000. I think we must now notice some of the other towns of Shropshire. Can you mention any, Willie?

WILLIE.

Bridgenorth and Ludlow.

MARION.

The town of Bridgenorth, anciently called Bruges, was built by Ethelfleda, and is said to have derived its name from a bridge over the river Severn, which runs through the town. It is described as a very interesting place; I have read that Charles the First considered it "the most pleasant place in his dominions."

MRS. LESLIE.

Travellers have compared its situation with that of ancient Jerusalem, from the hill upon which the upper town is built. This rocky hill is 180 feet above the bed of the river which separates the upper from the lower town. There is something

very peculiar in the appearance of the ruined tower of the ancient castle, which stands on a hill in the centre of the town, in a leaning position, like the celebrated tower of Pisa.

KATE.

Is Bridgenorth a flourishing place now, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Its progress is considerably retarded by the absence of railway communication, but, nevertheless, the town has much improved of late years. Its trade consists chiefly in carpet weaving, worsted spinning, matting, and tanning leather. The population of Bridgenorth is about 6000.

HERBERT.

Ludlow, I think, is principally celebrated for its castle, the ruins of which are the most perfect of any along the Welsh border. A beautiful public walk, adorned with beech-trees, extends around them, and is much resorted to as a favourite promenade. Ludlow Castle has been the scene of several interesting historical events. It was here that the unfortunate young king Edward the Fifth was proclaimed in the thirteenth year of his age, after which he and his brother, the duke of York, were recalled to London by their wicked uncle, Richard the Third, and supposed to have been cruelly murdered in the Tower.

MARION.

It was at Ludlow Castle, too, that Catharine of Arragon was married to Prince Arthur, the eldest son of Henry the Seventh.

WILLIE.

I thought that Catharine of Arragon was one of the wives of Henry the Eighth.

MARION.

So she was, Willie, but at the time of her marriage with Henry the Eighth, she was his brother's widow. Her first husband died at Ludlow Castle, in the reign of Henry the Seventh.

MRS. LESLIE.

This castle is supposed to have been built by Roger de Montgomery, whom we have already mentioned, and it was long the residence and court of the "Lords Marchers." Their power was annulled at the Reformation, since which time the castle has fallen to decay. Do you know, Katie, for what manufacture Ludlow is noted?

KATE.

For gloves ; but the trade now is not so great as formerly. Its population is nearly 5000.

MARION.

Oswestry is another ancient town of Shropshire. It has been much improved in modern times, and is celebrated for the beautiful scenery around it. The picturesque ruins of Whittington Castle are near to Oswestry.

HERBERT.

There is a story in connection with Whittington Castle relating to the days of tilt and tournament. It is said that William Peveril, of the Peak, who also owned this castle, offered to bestow it, with the hand of his fair daughter, Melette, upon that knight who should prove the victor, at a tournament given by him, at his castle, on the peak. The prize was won by Gaurine de Metz, of the house of Lorraine, who was then sheriff of Shropshire, and the castle remained in his family for nearly four centuries.

KATE.

I do not think I quite understand the nature of a tournament ; will you describe it to me, mamma ?

MRS. LESLIE.

It was a very favourite amusement in the days of chivalry or knighthood, and was introduced into England by the Normans, soon after the conquest. It consisted of a kind of mimic war or combat, in which the knights who engaged in it were competitors for some prize, announced by a herald, to be given to the victor. The place of contest was a large open space, called the

"Lists," around which galleries were erected for high-born and noble ladies, who, in elegant attire, viewed the sports, and decided upon the merits of the competitors. When everything was prepared for the encounter, the knights, in complete and splendid armour, mounted on beautiful steeds, richly caparisoned, rushed upon each other, with swords and lances, as if they were deadly foes; but as they always used blunted weapons, there was seldom much harm done. They never hurt each other except by accident.

KATE.

I am glad they did not hurt each other; but still I should think it was a very silly kind of amusement.

MRS. LESLIE.

Considered as a pastime only it certainly would have been a great waste of time and money; and, indeed, the luxury and extravagance to which these tournaments gave rise were great evils in any case, and at length led to their prohibition; but before we entirely condemn them, we must remember that at that time the use of arms formed a necessary part in the education of gentlemen, who regularly practised all kinds of warlike exercises and athletic games in the tiltyards of their castles. Prizes were frequently offered for competition, in order to stimulate them to endeavour to attain a degree of excellence as warriors, just in the same manner as Miss Selby tries to make you excel in your studies by the prospect of reward. There is one reflection in connection with Herbert's account of Whittington Castle, which ought to excite our thankfulness, and that is, that the "daughters of England" are not now bestowed in marriage in connection with any such adventitious circumstances. In the days of chivalry, I fear, many a poor lady was united to a knight whose only recommendation was his valour, and who might have been destitute of every moral virtue. Are there any other old castles in this county you wish to mention?

MARION.

There are so many spoken of, that we really could not tell

which to select ; a great number have entirely fallen to decay, and many more consist of ruins only. The remains of some of the abbeys are described as exceedingly picturesque. Lillishall Abbey, near Newport, and White Ladies Priory, near Boscobel, are extremely beautiful ruins.

HERBERT.

We omitted to notice those castles which did not seem to possess particular interest, in order to be able to give more time to the recollections associated with Boscobel House, which is situated on the borders of Staffordshire, and greatly celebrated as the place of concealment of Charles the Second, after his defeat at Worcester. Come, Marion, we look to you to follow his fallen fortunes.

MARION.

Among the few faithful friends who accompanied the king in his flight from Worcester, was a gentleman of the name of Gifford, who, at that time, resided at Boscobel House. Thence he took the disconsolate Charles, and concealed him in the house by night, the woods affording him a secure retreat by day.

WILLIE.

Was it at Boscobel that Charles was hid in the oak, Marion ?

MARION.

Yes, Willie. He had his hair cut short, and was disguised in a green suit, and leathern doublet ; and taking with him some bread, cheese, and beer, he was very glad to climb up and conceal himself among the thick branches of an oak which grew in the wood. While there, some of Cromwell's party who were in pursuit of him passed under the tree, and the poor king actually heard them talking of the punishment in store for him, should they succeed in his capture.

WILLIE.

Pray go on, Marion. I want so much to hear what became of him at last.

MARION.

On the third night after his arrival at Boscobel, it was not considered safe for him to stay any longer in one place, so he set out for a village called Mosely, in Staffordshire; but, before he started, he changed clothes with a poor cottager, in whose barn he had slept the night before. I have a description of his dress here, which I am sure will amuse you. "He had on a white steeple-crowned hat, without any other lining besides grease, both sides of the brim so doubled up with handling, that they looked like two waterspouts; a leather doublet, full of holes, and almost black with grease about the sleeves, collar, and waist; an old green woodman's coat, threadbare and patched in most places. * * * * * His shoes had been cobbled, being pierced both on the soles and seams, and the upper leathers were so cut and slashed to fit them to his feet, that they were quite unfit to befriend him either from the water or the dirt." In this miserable manner, ill-clothed, and often ill-fed, Charles wandered through several different counties, and at last escaped from Shoreham, in Sussex, where he embarked in a small vessel for Normandy, having evaded his pursuers for forty-one days. He remained an exile from his country until the Restoration, which took place upon the 29th of May, 1660, nearly nine years after his memorable defeat at Worcester.

KATE.

I forget what became of Henrietta Maria, the wife of Charles the First, and the other part of his family, after his cruel execution.

MRS. LESLIE.

The queen, who you remember was the daughter of Henry the Fourth of France, resided chiefly at Paris, and had a small pension allowed her by Louis the Fourteenth, her nephew; but it appears that her income was quite inadequate to her wants, as it is related that when the Cardinal De Retz waited on her one morning, she told him that her daughter, the Princess Henrietta, was obliged to lie in bed for want of a fire to warm herself. The Princess Henrietta was afterwards married to the Duke of Orleans, but it proved

an unhappy union. The Princess Elizabeth, who was intended by the House of Commons to be apprenticed to a button-maker, died soon after her father, and thus escaped so great an indignity. Her sister Mary married the Prince of Orange. The Duke of Gloucester, who, you remember, told his father he "would be torn in pieces rather than be made a king," died young, and James, the Duke of York, succeeded his brother under the title of James the Second.

MARION.

We have not mentioned the china and earthenware manufactories in this county. Coalport is celebrated for very beautiful china, and Caughley, near to Broseley, for the blue and white and gold sorts. Garden-pots and pans are made at Broseley.

MRS. LESLIE.

We have now, I think, noticed most of the places and events of importance in connection with Shropshire; but there is still a village called Rowton, near the Wrekin, which claims our attention, from its having been the birthplace of an eminent nonconformist divine, one whom we should have had occasion to mention, had we followed the career of Charles the Second a little farther, as the individual to whom I allude was appointed one of his chaplains at the Restoration.

HERBERT.

I suppose you mean Richard Baxter?

MRS. LESLIE.

I do, my dear.

HERBERT.

How surprising it seems that Charles should have led such a dissolute life as he did, when he had such a pious man as Baxter for his chaplain.

MRS. LESLIE.

I believe Baxter did not continue long at court, and only once preached before the king; but the best wishes of many pious men were with Charles upon his restoration. The London ministers,

as a body, attended him with acclamations as he passed through the city to Westminster, where they "presented him with a richly-adorned Bible, which he received, and told them it should be the rule of his actions." Poor Charles! he had to learn that the "heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked." His subsequent career too truly testified that his conduct was framed after any other model rather than the word of God.

KATE.

Pray, mamma, tell us a little more of Richard Baxter before we separate.

MRS. LESLIE.

He was born in 1615, at the house of his maternal grandfather, at Rowton, in this county. His father, a country gentleman, had considerably reduced his estate by gambling; but, about the time of Richard's birth, became seriously impressed with the importance of attending to better things. Young Baxter's early life was passed with his grandfather, and he himself relates, that "during boyhood he became addicted to the sins of disobedience to parents, lying, stealing fruit," &c. His early education was much neglected, from the inefficiency of his masters; but at length we find him at Wroxeter, preparing for the ministry, after having himself been convinced of the evil of sin, and led to seek and serve the only Saviour. At the age of eighteen, he was induced to pay a visit to the court of Charles the First; but he says, "I had quickly enough of the court; when I saw a stage play instead of a sermon on the Lord's day in the afternoon, and saw what course there was in fashion, and heard little preaching but what was, as to one part, against the Puritans, I was glad to be gone."

HERBERT.

Was not Baxter imprisoned in later years for his religious opinions, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; in 1685 he was tried before the notorious Judge Jeffries, and sentenced to two years' imprisonment; but he obtained his

liberty before the expiration of the term by the influence of Lord Powis, who greatly disapproved of the unjust verdict. Baxter was a very zealous nonconformist, but at the same time an eminently useful Christian. He suffered much in those degenerate times for his uncompromising adherence to what he believed was right, and always manifested his sincerity by his disinterestedness. He was a great writer as well as a very effective preacher. His most distinguished works are, "A Call to the Unconverted," and the "Saint's Everlasting Rest." I have now only time to tell you, my dear children, that Herefordshire will be the next county for our consideration.

CONVERSATION XIII.

HEREFORDSHIRE.

SUBJECTS :— Boundaries.—Size.—Character of County.—Beauty of the River Wye.—Other Rivers of Herefordshire.—Ancient Inhabitants.—Noble Resistance to Romans.—Caractacus.—Incursions of Welsh.—Hereford.—Derivation of Name.—Treachery of Offa, King of Mercia.—Canonisation.—Intercession of Saints.—Only One Mediator.—Historical Reminiscences of Hereford.—Present State of Town.—Herefordshire Cattle.—Leominster.—Historical Recollections.—Ross.—John Kyrle.—Wilton Castle.—Thomas Guy.—Romantic Scenery.—Goodrich Castle.—Civil Wars.—Loyalty of Rev. Thomas Swift.—Insincerity of Charles the First.—Feudal System.—Foundation of English Liberty.—Goodrich Court.

“All our praises why should lords engross?
Rise, honest muse, and sing the Man of Ross.”

“WHO would have thought that I should find out all about the veritable ‘Man of Ross!’” soliloquised Marion Leslie, after repeating to herself, in a tone of exultation, the above well-known lines from Pope’s celebrated eulogium. “I always had an idea that that benevolent individual was simply a creation of the poet’s fancy; but I find he was a real living character, as much entitled to a place among our philanthropists as John Howard or Elizabeth Fry. I wonder whether Herbert or Katie have made a similar discovery. I hope not; it will be so delightful to surprise them.”

At that moment the door of the breakfast-room opened, and her brothers and sister entered, accompanied by their mother, who, as soon as she was seated, desired Katie to mention the boundaries and size of Herefordshire.

KATE.

Herefordshire is an inland county, bordering on Wales. It is bounded on the north by Shropshire, on the east by Worcestershire and part of Gloucestershire, on the south by Gloucestershire and Monmouthshire, and on the west by Brecknockshire and Radnorshire. Its length is about forty miles, and breadth thirty-four miles. There are also four small detached portions belonging to this county.

WILLIE.

Herefordshire is an agricultural county, and is noted for its hop grounds and orchards.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, my dear, it is a very fine county; and, indeed, I may say it is surpassed by few in England for productiveness. You know Herefordshire is celebrated for cider.

HERBERT.

I believe the extreme fertility of this county is chiefly ascribed to the fine rivers which intersect it. The Wye, which rises among the mountains of Wales, is considered one of the most beautiful rivers in Great Britain.

MRS. LESLIE.

Or you might almost say in Europe, Herbert, for I think it would scarcely lose in comparison with the far-famed Rhine itself. In pursuing its devious course through Herefordshire, the lovely Wye for the most part presents a majestic, graceful aspect; but when we come to notice the wild mountain scenery of Wales, we shall find this same quiet river an impetuous foaming torrent. The Lugg, the Teme, the Arrow, the Leddon, and the Munnow, are also rivers of Herefordshire.

HERBERT.

I find that this county formed part of the territories of the Silures, a powerful tribe of ancient Britons, who inhabited the lands bordering on the Severn, and were governed by Caractacus, the brave king who, after nobly defending his country for seven years against the Romans, was vanquished, loaded with chains, and carried captive before the emperor Claudius, at Rome. His dominions were afterwards included in the extensive province of Flavia Cæsariensis.

MRS. LESLIE.

I wonder whether Willie can repeat the pathetic speech of the noble captive as he was led in triumph through the imperial city?

WILLIE.

Yes, mamma. As he looked round on the beautiful buildings, he exclaimed, "How is it possible that a people possessed of so much magnificence at home should envy me an humble cottage in Britain." Miss Selby says that the emperor was so sorry for him, that he ordered his chains to be taken off, set him at liberty, and behaved very kindly to him ever after.

MARION.

Herefordshire appears to have suffered considerably from the encroachments of the Welsh, and to have been a scene of constant warfare between that people and the English, previous to the union of the two countries.

MRS. LESLIE.

It did; and it also shared in the calamities caused by the insurrection of the barons in the reign of Henry the Third. During the unsettled reign of Edward the Second, it was also the scene of execution of several of the king's favourites. But as we have before spoken of the sad consequences resulting from the follies of those weak-minded sovereigns, we need not expatiate upon them now. I think, Willie, you may now mention the county town.

WILLIE.

Hereford, on the river Wye.

KATE.

The name Hereford is said to be of Saxon derivation, implying a ford for an army, and was given to this city in consequence of the Wye being fordable at this place.

HERBERT.

In reading an account of the early history of Hereford, I was much shocked with an instance of treachery which I should think must be almost without an equal. It is related that Offa, king of Mercia (of which kingdom Hereford was part), invited Ethelbert, king of the East Angles, to his court, under the pretence of giving him his daughter in marriage, but for no other purpose, in reality, than to have him assassinated, in order to add East Anglia to his own possessions.

KATE.

And did he carry his wicked purpose into execution ?

MRS. LESLIE.

He did. And how do you think he endeavoured to atone for so great a crime ?

KATE.

Indeed I cannot tell, mamma ; but I am sure nothing that he could do would make amends for such a dreadful deed.

MRS. LESLIE.

It was not an uncommon thing in those days, when an individual had taken away the life of another, for him to endeavour, by way of reparation, to get his victim canonized, and made the patron saint of some religious house or order. Thus Offa procured the canonization of Ethelbert, and dedicated a church to him, on the same spot where the cathedral of Hereford now stands.

WILLIE.

I should like to know, mamma, what you mean by the canonization of Ethelbert.

MRS. LESLIE.

Canonization was a ceremony of the Roman Catholic church, by which a person after death was declared by the pope to be a saint, and entitled to be worshipped. Don't you remember, Willie, how shocked you were to hear of Queen Philippa praying to St. Cuthbert? He was a man who had been canonized on account of his having been thought more holy than other people, and that was the reason of Queen Philippa praying to him.

MARION.

I have been told that Papists only ask the saints to intercede with God for them, and do not pray to them in the same manner as they pray to God.

MRS. LESLIE.

But you know, my dear, that the scriptures declare that there is only "*one* mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus."

MARION.

Oh yes, mamma, and I am sure we do not want any other when it is said, "*He ever liveth* to make intercession for us."

MRS. LESLIE.

I am glad to find you remember a passage so much to the purpose, and trust, my dear child, that the precious truth contained in it will not only be stored in your memory, but treasured in your heart. But we must return to Hereford.

HERBERT.

In the year 1055 the city was plundered and burnt by the Welsh, but was restored and fortified soon after by William the Conqueror. He also erected a castle, but no portion of it now exists. During the civil wars the city was twice besieged and ultimately compelled to surrender to the Parliamentarians. Can you tell us anything about the present state of Hereford, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

It appears to keep pace with the progress of the times. Great

and extensive improvements, I am informed, have lately taken place in the city.

HERBERT.

The Herefordshire cattle are greatly celebrated. Are they not ?

MRS. LESLIE.

They are ; also the sheep, which produce a fine silky wool, considered in some respects little inferior to the Spanish.

KATE.

I do not think there are any manufactures of importance carried on at Hereford.

MRS. LESLIE.

No, my dear ; if you remember, Willie told us this was entirely an agricultural county, and therefore we do not expect it to be celebrated for manufactures. It is true that gloves were once made in this city to a considerable extent, but the trade has greatly declined ; hats and flannels are still made, but the chief articles of commerce are cider, hops, and tanner's bark. The population of Hereford is upwards of 12,000.

MARION.

I suppose Ross is the next place for our consideration ?

HERBERT.

If you refer to the last census returns, Marion, you will find that it yields to Leominster in point of population.

MARION.

It may in point of population, but I doubt if it will in interest. But come, my good brother, please to let us hear all you have to tell of Leominster.

HERBERT.

That is very little, I assure you, sister mine, for all I know about it is, that it is a market town on the river Lugg, and pleasantly surrounded by meadows, orchards, and hop-grounds. The

only information I possess of its history is that it was destroyed by fire in the reign of King John and soon afterwards rebuilt. Its present population is upwards of 5000.

MRS. LESLIE.

The inhabitants of Leominster distinguished themselves upon the death of Edward the Sixth by their opposition to the conspiracy of the Duke of Northumberland, by which Lady Jane Grey was placed upon the throne. They warmly espoused the cause of Mary, and in return for their services she granted to the town its first charter of incorporation.

KATE.

I am glad to hear of one instance of good feeling on the part of that morose sour-tempered queen.

MRS. LESLIE.

If population is to be our rule for priority, Ledbury must claim attention previous to our notice of Ross, as it rather exceeds it in the number of inhabitants; but as it is not a place of any celebrity, we may pass it by with merely observing that it is a market town on the river Leddon, containing about 5000 inhabitants. And now, Marion, let us hear what you have discovered of so much interest in connection with the pretty quiet little town of Ross.

MARION.

Ah! I see my interesting secret is no secret to you, mamma; no, nor, I declare, to Herbert neither! His tell-tale countenance shows that he knows all about it. Perhaps, Katie, I may have the pleasure of surprising you. What does the mention of Ross remind you of?

KATE.

Why, the poem of the "Man of Ross" to be sure.

MARION.

Yes; but who was the "Man of Ross"? Was he a real or fictitious character?

KATE.

Now you quite puzzle me. Indeed, I never thought about it.

MARION.

Then I can tell you, Katie. He was a real country gentleman, named John Kyrle, and actually performed, with his "five hundred pounds a year," all the praiseworthy deeds that Pope ascribed to him. "The heaven-directed spire" which he taught to rise is still pointed to by "lipping babes" as his work; and a beautiful avenue of trees which adorns the churchyard is known as "The Man of Ross's Walk." This worthy individual was intended for the bar, and pursued his studies at Balliol College, Oxford; but he soon gave up all thoughts of following his profession, and devoted himself to the benefit of his native town. He died considerably more than a century ago, at the advanced age of ninety.

WILLIE.

But you should have told us more about what he did before he died.

MARION.

You shall read the poem yourself to me this evening, Willie, and then you will learn all the improvements he made in his native town. The account I read of him says that Pope has not at all overstated them.

MRS. LESLIE.

As I know little people like to know something about the appearance and manner of any one of whom they hear or read, I will give you a short description which I lately met with of "The Man of Ross." He was a tall thin man, of good figure, and with a remarkably healthy cheerful countenance. His usual dress was a brown suit of clothes, and a King William's wig. His public liberality did not make him unmindful of the hospitalities of private life, and though he disliked gay parties, and never indulged in extravagant living, he had always a kind welcome for a friend or neighbour; but you will, I dare say, think that his fare was very homely when I tell you that "he never had roast beef

on his table save and except on Christmas day." His chief luxury was that of doing good, and it is related that there was a large block of wood always kept in his kitchen for poor people to sit upon, and that a piece of boiled beef and three pecks of bread were given to the poor every Sunday.

WILLIE.

That was very kind, and I dare say he was much happier than if he had spent all his money on himself.

MRS. LESLIE.

I quite agree with you, my dear boy, and hope you will often know from experience how much pleasure is derived from sympathy with, and kindness to, the poor. But we have been so much taken up with "The Man of Ross," that we have omitted to notice the town to which his name has attached so great an interest.

HERBERT.

Ross is a pleasant market town built upon a hill, at the bottom of which flows the river Wye. It is about thirteen miles from Hereford, and is surrounded by beautiful hilly scenery; hop-grounds, orchards, and woods giving variety to the landscape. The town at one time was somewhat noted for iron work, but that manufacture is now very inconsiderable. Cider and wool are its chief articles of trade. I think, mamma, we should not leave Ross without observing that the remains of John Kyrle were interred in its quiet churchyard. A marble tablet, bearing a simple inscription, perpetuates his name.

KATE.

But I am sure, Herbert, that the poem says,—

"And what!—no monument, inscription stone?
His race, his form, his name almost unknown!"

HERBERT.

Very true, Katie. The monument was not erected until 1776, when the cost was defrayed by a sum of money left by Lady Betty

Duplin for that purpose. In Pope's days, the name of the "Man of Ross" was not inscribed in "dull, cold marble," but in the warm affections of his townsmen; and even now, I understand, the good people of that little town religiously revere his memory.

MRS. LESLIE.

With the immediate neighbourhood of Ross is associated the name of another public benefactor. About a mile lower down the Wye are to be seen the ruins of Wilton Castle, which, with the broad lands belonging to it, formerly belonged to Thomas Guy, the founder of Guy's Hospital, in London. This rich estate was left by him to that excellent institution.

MARION.

But, mamma, I thought the founder of Guy's Hospital was the son of a lighterman at Southwark?

MRS. LESLIE.

You thought quite right, my dear; but, if you remember, he amassed an immense fortune, amounting, I think, to nearly half a million; therefore we need not wonder at his possession of a fine estate.

HERBERT.

Does not the scenery of the Wye, as it approaches Monmouthshire, assume a bolder and more magnificent appearance than in the neighbourhood of Hereford and Ross?

MRS. LESLIE.

It does; about five miles from the ruins of Wilton Castle, lofty precipices and beautifully wooded hills rise on every side, while the lovely river, with its tortuous turns and windings, imparts a charm to the landscape not easily conceived.

MARION.

I think it must be in that vicinity that the ruins of Goodrich Castle are situate.

MRS. LESLIE.

You are right. But what can you tell us of that interesting relic of feudal times?

MARION.

That once mighty fortress is now only a magnificent heap of ruins. The keep, which is the most ancient part of the building, is of Saxon architecture. Some other portions are in the Norman and Tudor style. The view of the surrounding country from the battlements of one of the towers is said to be most magnificent.

KATE.

Is there any interesting historical event connected with Goodrich Castle, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

The most important record that has been preserved relates to its demolition, and the calamitous times of the civil wars. It was first taken by the Parliamentarians, but afterwards fell into possession of Charles's party, and after sustaining a siege for six weeks, was compelled to surrender, and was destroyed by Cromwell. I believe this was the last castle in England, with one exception, that held out for the king.

WILLIE.

I declare, mamma, in every county we come to, we hear of castles or churches being destroyed in those dreadful civil wars. What shocking times they must have been to live in.

KATE.

Indeed they must; the very recollection of them is enough to make one tremble.

MRS. LESLIE.

I met with an anecdote yesterday, relating to the loyalty of the Rev. Thomas Swift, who was vicar of Goodrich Church during the time of Charles's adversity, which I think you will be pleased to hear.

KATE.

Oh! yes; that I am sure we shall. But please to tell us first, mamma, whether the clergyman you mentioned was any relation to the celebrated Dean Swift.

MRS. LESLIE.

He was the grandfather of that eminent satirist. Such was his loyalty to the unfortunate Charles, that he mortgaged his estate for the purpose of giving him the money, and proceeded for that purpose to Raglan Castle, where the king had retired after his defeat at Naseby. "I am come to give his Majesty my coat," said Swift, taking it off and presenting it to the governor of the castle. "It is of little worth," was the reply. "Why, then, take my waistcoat too," he answered. On ripping it open, 300 broad pieces of gold were found concealed.

MARION.

It must have been very gratifying to the feelings of the unhappy king, but I think it did not enable him to recover his lost position.

MRS. LESLIE.

You are right. All Charles's hopes of victory perished at Naseby; and though the Royalists engaged in one battle more at Stow-on-the-Wold in Gloucestershire, it was but to experience their final overthrow.

HERBERT.

I have always felt very angry with the Parliamentarians for publishing the poor king's private letters to the queen, which fell into their hands after the battle of Naseby. There must have been such a want of proper feeling in the matter.

MRS. LESLIE.

Situated as they were, we cannot, I think, wonder at such a step. The letters, I am sorry to say, proved, beyond a doubt, that the king had been insincere in the professions he had made; and therefore it is not a matter of surprise that his enemies should have wished to make such disclosures as public as they could.

WILLIE.

Will you tell me, mamma, what you meant when you said Goodrich Castle was a relic of feudal times? You said something like that, when you were speaking of Warwick Castle, but I did not ask you to explain it then, because I knew you had so many things to mention.

MRS. LESLIE.

That was very considerate indeed, Willie, and to reward you for your patience, I will try to make the subject quite easy for you to understand. I have told you how very different our country once was, in many respects, from what it now is; but I have not told you one half of the burdens under which the poorer classes of English people groaned. Many of their miseries were caused by the feudal system, which I am now going to explain; but perhaps I had better first tell you from what the word *feudal* is derived.

WILLIE.

Oh! yes, if you please, mamma; that will be sure to make me understand it better.

MRS. LESLIE.

The original word *feodum* is composed of the word *feo*, which means wages, and *od*, which signifies an estate, therefore it means, simply, an estate given instead of wages, in return for service rendered. You have frequently heard us talking, you know, of the great barons who used to live in large castles, such as the one we have been mentioning. These barons had their estates granted to them by the king in return for their assistance in his wars. They took an oath of fealty, or fidelity, by which they bound themselves to live and die in his service. In like manner, the barons granted portions of the estates thus purchased to their dependants, who, instead of paying rent for the lands or houses they occupied, were required to assist the barons in their wars, and do them any other service they required.

KATE.

I do not see that there was any great hardship in such a system, mamma.

MRS. LESLIE.

It was in the abuse of the system that the grievances consisted, as you will find presently, Katie. I was going to state that the vassals or dependants of the barons, granted some portions of the lands they held to those beneath them, on exactly similar terms to those by which they were bound to the barons, only the services exacted became heavier the lower they descended. Felling timber, carrying manure, and repairing the roads for their lords, were among the duties required of the lower order of vassals of the olden times. Their common food was a coarse kind of rye bread, herbs, nettles, and occasionally pea shells. Their habitations were wretched hovels, and the same bundle of straw often formed a bed for themselves, their families, and the cattle they tended. All these miseries might probably have been endured with some degree of contentment, if they had only enjoyed the blessing of freedom; but they were so entirely the property of their masters, that when an estate was sold, men, women, and children were sold with it.

WILLIE.

Why, mamma, I should think you were talking of America, and not of England! Surely there were never any Uncle Toms and Topsy's in our own happy country.

MRS. LESLIE.

The perfect freedom which every poor person now enjoys might well lead you to think so, Willie; but I assure you, at the time of which I am speaking, the whole of the English peasantry were slaves, and were bought and sold like cattle in the public markets. When their owners died, they were disposed of by will, just the same as we now dispose of our money, plate, or property of any kind.

MARION.

Were not the English slaves called villans, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; from the Latin word *villa*, which was sometimes applied

to the dwellings of their masters, near which they resided. Our word village is derived from the same source, and was first used for a collection of the wretched huts occupied by villans.

HERBERT.

I think this unhappy state of things originated with the Saxons, did it not, mamma? I remember reading that a superior lord or noble was called a *thane* by them.

MRS. LESLIE.

Slavery, with all its attendant enormities, existed among the Anglo-Saxons; but although some features of the feudal system were introduced from Germany about the year 600, the laws relating to it were not fully established until the reign of William the Conqueror.

MARION.

If slavery was practised among the Saxons, I am happy to say that our favourite, King Alfred, did not sanction it, as I remember reading that he said, "It was just that the English should for ever remain as free as their own thoughts."

MRS. LESLIE.

No, Alfred was far too wise and good a king to approve of a system so degrading to humanity; but the emancipation of the slave was a gradual and progressive work, and one which could not be accomplished all at once. Alfred, however, laid the foundation of English liberty by an act commanding the time of servitude of a Christian slave to be limited to six years, and on the seventh he was to be considered free.

MARION.

I suppose the system of vassalage entirely ceased with the signing of Magna Charta, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

The exactions and thralldom which the English nation had so long endured, were then in a great measure done away, but still

the peasantry were little affected by it. They long continued an oppressed and degraded people, and were regarded by their superiors with a feeling of haughty contempt. In the reign of Henry the Fourth, an act was passed forbidding the agricultural labourer, under penalty of a year's imprisonment, to apprentice his children to any trade, "unless he had land or rent to the value of twenty shillings by the year at least."

MARION.

What could have been the reason of such an arbitrary law?

MRS. LESLIE.

It was no doubt intended to keep the people in a state of subjection, by withholding from them the means of bettering their condition. From time to time the wrongs of the peasantry were partially redressed, by the influence of those feeble rays of Christianity which faintly illumined the surrounding darkness, but it was not until the glorious Reformation that their social condition was materially and permanently improved. But we must retrace our steps to Goodrich. Is there any other place you wish to notice in that locality?

HERBERT.

Goodrich Court, the mansion of Sir Samuel Meyrick, is a curious imitation of antique architecture. It is built in the style that prevailed from the end of the reign of Edward the First to the beginning of that of Edward the Third, and is considered the most successful imitation of the kind to be found in England.

MARION.

We have not mentioned many places in Herefordshire, mamma, but yet we all seem to have arrived at the end of our memoranda. There are so many villages and unimportant towns in this county which possess so little variety, that we did not think it necessary to mention them.

MRS. LESLIE.

I should like Willie to tell me the names of the market towns which have not been already noticed.

WILLIE.

Bromyard, Kington, and Weobly.

MRS. LESLIE.

Very good. As your sister has observed, these places do not present any peculiar features of attraction to distinguish them from other country towns, therefore the mention of them is sufficient. I have now only to request you will direct your attention to Monmouthshire during the ensuing week.

CONVERSATION XIV.



MONMOUTHSHIRE.

SUBJECTS :— Monmouthshire formerly a Welsh County. — Boundaries. — Size. — Detached Portion. — Natural Features and Resources. — Ancient British Tribe. — Conquest, by Romans. — Principal Rivers. — Number of Castles. — Monmouth formerly a Roman Station. — Monmouth Caps. — Henry of Monmouth. — Ancient Castle. — Picturesque Scenery. — Tintern Abbey. — Cistercian Monks. — Erroneous Notions regarding Acceptance with God. — Wyndcliff. — Moss Cottage. — Chepstow Castle. — Siege during Civil Wars. — Harry Marten. — Town of Chepstow. — Newport. — Iron Works of County. — Pontypool. — Abergavenny. — Vale of Usk. — Ancient Castle. — Historical Recollections. — Chief industrial Resource. — Raglan Castle, Place of Refuge for Charles the First. — Loyalty of Marquis of Worcester. — Caerleon, a magnificent Roman City. — Remains of ancient Greatness. — Antiquity of Caerwent. — Reflections on the evanescent Nature of sublunary things.

“I SHOULD have thought, mamma,” said Katie, “that Monmouthshire had been one of the counties of Wales; the names of many of its towns and villages are much more like Welsh than English names.”

MRS. LESLIE.

Very true, Katie; and to account for this circumstance I have only to tell you that it was formerly included in that principality, and was annexed to England in the reign of Henry the Eighth, about the year 1535. The wild and mountainous character of its scenery seems to denote that it naturally belongs to Wales, although now comprehended in the civil division of England. Indeed the Welsh dialect still extensively prevails along the western border.

WILLIE.

Monmouthshire appears to be almost surrounded by water, mamma.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, my dear. You see on the north and north-east it is bounded by the river Munnaw, which separates it from Herefordshire, on the east by the Wye, which flows between it and Gloucestershire, on the south by the Bristol Channel and the river Severn, and on the south-west by the Rumney, which separates it from Glamorganshire. Brecknockshire is the western boundary. Can you mention the size of Monmouthshire, Katie?

KATE.

It is about twenty-eight miles in length, and rather less in breadth.

HERBERT.

There is a small detached portion of this county, including the picturesque village of Welsh Bicknor, quite on the confines of Herefordshire and Gloucestershire. The main-land of Monmouthshire is divided into two unequal portions by the beautiful river Usk, which enters the county near Abergavenny, in the north-east, and flows into the Bristol Channel, below Newport, in the south.

MRS. LESLIE.

Very good. Perhaps Marion can describe the peculiar features of these divisions, and give us some information relative to the natural resources of the county.

MARION.

The eastern, which is the larger division, is a well-wooded, fertile district, abounding in corn-fields and pasture-lands. The western district is rugged and mountainous, ill adapted for culture, but capable of feeding large flocks of sheep and herds of cattle. Monmouthshire is principally a mining county, and is rich in coal, iron, and limestone. The manufacture of iron is carried on to an immense extent.

WILLIE.

Is not Monmouthshire celebrated for cider, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Cider was formerly made in this county to some extent, but I am told of late years it has been considered more profitable to sell the apples, there being a good demand for them in the iron districts.

HERBERT.

I find that this county was also included in the territories of the Silures, the ancient British tribe we mentioned last week. They were a noble people, and effectually resisted the Romans until the reign of Vespasian; but there is abundant evidence of their afterwards being dispossessed by them. Tessellated pavements, coins, urns, and many remains of Roman luxury have been discovered in different parts of the county, and the Roman roads and encampments establish, without a doubt, the fact of its occupation by that people. On the Roman division of England, Monmouthshire was included in the province of Flavia Cæsariensis, but it was never entirely brought under the Saxon yoke.

KATE.

The principal rivers of Monmouthshire are, the Severn, the Munnow, the Rumney, and the Usk.

WILLIE.

Were there any feudal castles in Monmouthshire, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, my dear. The remains of as many as twenty-five castles, formerly held by feudal law, have been found in this county. When William the Norman conquered England, he could not spare soldiers to send into Wales, therefore he allowed his barons to invade it, and gave them all the lands they could conquer from the Welsh, in return for their services. Thus the feudal system was established along the Welsh border. I have told you before, you know, all about these mighty barons, who were called Lords Marchers, and the great power which they had.

MARION.

I should think there were often disputes between them as to

the extent of their estates, if their right to them was determined only by each possessing as much as he could obtain.

MRS. LESLIE.

Such was the frequent consequence of so vague a title; but whenever any strife occurred, the matter was referred to the king as supreme ruler, and settled by him.

HERBERT.

I believe the government of the Lords Marchers was abolished in the latter part of the reign of Henry the Eighth?

MRS. LESLIE.

You are right. And now, Willie, tell us the county-town of Monmouthshire.

WILLIE.

Monmouth, mamma.

MARION.

The town of Monmouth, which contains nearly 6000 inhabitants, is situated close to the union of the rivers Munnaw and Wye, from which circumstance its Welsh name *Mwny* is said to be derived. It is a handsome town, supposed to be built upon the site of the Roman station, *Blestium*.

KATE.

It does not appear that any manufactures of consequence are now carried on at Monmouth, but I have read that it was formerly celebrated for caps.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; "Monmouth caps" were at one time worn by the greater part of the people of England and Wales. Indeed, an act passed in the reign of Elizabeth commanded that "these caps should be worn on Sabbaths and holidays by all persons (some of worship and quality excepted), on pain of forfeiting ten groats."

KATE.

Dear me! mamma; what could have been the reason for such a

law? We should think it very hard not to have the liberty of dressing as we like.

MRS. LESLIE.

I suppose the intention was to promote the trade of cap-making at Monmouth, by which a great many persons obtained a livelihood. Do you know, Katie, which of our English kings was born at Monmouth?

KATE.

Yes, mamma; Henry the Fifth. He was called in consequence "Henry of Monmouth."

HERBERT.

"Madcap Harry" was another of the names given him when Prince of Wales, on account of his wild and dissolute conduct. I dare say you remember, Katie, the unbecoming way in which he behaved to the Chief Justice Gascoigne in open court?

KATE.

Oh, yes! I recollect that he drew his sword, and was very violent, because the judge would not release one of his profligate companions who was committed for robbery; for which conduct the judge ordered him to be taken to prison himself.

WILLIE.

I never heard of a king's son being sent to prison. I should think the king was very angry with the judge for doing so.

MRS. LESLIE.

On the contrary, he expressed his satisfaction at having a judge so faithful in the discharge of his duty. It would, you know, have been a very bad example to his subjects, if he had allowed his son to break the laws which were intended for the good of the country.

WILLIE.

If Henry the Fifth was so wicked when he was Prince of Wales, I suppose he made a very bad king?

MRS. LESLIE.

Your conclusion is a very natural one, for a bad youth generally

makes a bad man; but I am happy to tell you that Henry of Monmouth was an exception to this rule. Immediately after his father's death, he shut himself up in his own apartment, and prayed to God to enable him to lead a new life, and to fulfil as he ought the important duties required of him. On the next day he sent for his former bad companions, and told them of his altered feelings and intentions, and forbade them to enter his presence again, until they had given up their evil practices. His future conduct proved that he was sincere in his desires for amendment, and in many respects his conduct was that of a wise and good king, and such as made him much beloved by his subjects.

MARION.

It was Henry the Fifth who conquered France, was it not, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

It was. From his youth he had been distinguished for personal bravery, and a desire for military glory; and upon coming to the throne he determined to revive the expedition against that country which had been begun seventy-five years before by Edward the Third. He gained a decisive victory, and was crowned with glory and renown; but in the midst of all his greatness his career was cut short by his death, which happened in the 34th year of his age, and the 10th of his reign.

KATE.

I wonder whether any ruins of Monmouth Castle are left.

MRS. LESLIE.

But very few vestiges are now remaining of that once royal birth-place. Gilpin, who wrote his "Observations on the Wye," upwards of a century ago, has some amusing remarks upon the changes which time effects. In his days, all that remained of the regal palace were some crumbling walls, enclosing a poultry-yard, and even these, I am informed, have almost disappeared. A ladies' boarding-school now stands upon the spot.

MARION.

Herbert is quite at home in this neighbourhood, and he tells me that the scenery around Monmouth is very picturesque.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; the road between Monmouth and Chepstow presents an ever-varying scene of beauty, and includes some of the prettiest spots upon the "Sylvan Wye," as Wordsworth has it. The village of Penalith with its romantic church, Pen-y-van, Tregay-alt, and the lovely wooded hamlet of Llandogo, with its noble hills and silvery bay, the ivy-clad ruins of Tintern Abbey, Ban-y-gor craggs, and the Wyndcliff, are among the lovely landscapes that intervene. I suppose you were greatly delighted with the ruins of the abbey, Herbert?

HERBERT.

Indeed I was, mamma. I shall never forget my feelings when the whole scene burst upon me. The extreme length of the nave, the lofty walls, elegant Gothic pillars, and pointed arches, and the splendid west window covered with ivy and shrubs, filled me with surprise and admiration. In the refectory I was shown the remains of the pulpit in which one of the monks used to read to the others during meal times.

MARION.

Do you know when Tintern Abbey was erected, Herbert?

HERBERT.

About the end of the 13th century, for an order of Cistercian or white monks; it was always more remarkable for its extreme beauty than for its riches, or the number of its inmates. At the general dissolution of monastic houses, this magnificent and spacious abbey contained no more than thirteen monks.

MARION.

I wonder why they were called white monks?

MRS. LESLIE.

I should suppose from the colour of their garments, which was

white, with the exception of a black scapulary, or piece of cloth covering the breast and back, and extending to the knees in lay brothers, but to the feet in ecclesiastics. The Cistercian order of monks sprung from the Benedictines, and its members were required to be particularly austere in their mode of life. They observed continual silence, except upon absolutely required subjects, abstained from meat, wore neither shoes nor shirts, walked with their heads inclined and eyes fixed upon the ground, and slept on straw. How mistaken was the notion, that by such a life of mortification they could make themselves acceptable to God.

MARION.

The view from the Wyndcliff is very fine, I suppose?

HERBERT.

We cannot speak of it as a single view, for it commands the prospect of nine different counties, and includes the most glorious landscapes you can possibly imagine.

MRS. LESLIE.

Its ever-varying character constitutes, I think, its chief attraction; foreigners, as well as our own countrymen, have highly extolled it. A German Prince, who made a tour in England in 1826, and has well described the scenery of the Wye, remarks, when speaking of the Wyndcliff, that "a vast group of views of distinct and opposite character here seem to blend and unite in one."

WILLIE.

Is the Wyndcliff a high mountain, Herbert?

HERBERT.

It is an almost upright craggy rock, nearly nine hundred feet high. I dare say you wonder how I managed to get up, but you must know that there are some kind of zigzag paths cut in the rock to help one; but I assure you, after all, it takes one's breath away. There is such a lovely little cottage at the bottom, thatched, and entirely lined with moss, and adorned with stained glass Gothic

windows! I should like you to see it, Willie, for I think you never saw anything half so pretty.

WILLIE.

Does any one live in it, Herbert?

HERBERT.

Yes; and its inmates get a living by providing accommodation for the numerous pic-nic parties which resort to that lovely neighbourhood.

KATE.

What did you think of Chepstow Castle, Herbert? Please to tell us all you remember about it.

HERBERT.

I should think that old castle and Tintern Abbey deserve to be considered "the most beautiful ruins in the world," as they have been called by travellers. On approaching Chepstow Castle by the river, it seems almost to form part of the perpendicular cliff upon which it stands, and the ruins are so extensive, that one might almost imagine they were the remains of an ancient city, and not of a single castle, which we were drawing near to.

MARION.

It was originally a Norman structure, I believe?

HERBERT.

Yes, and supposed to have been built almost immediately after the conquest by William Fitz-Osbern, Earl of Hereford, and governor of the Marches. It is supposed that the first castle was little more than a small fort. It has been improved and enlarged at different periods, but the Norman style of architecture is very conspicuous, more particularly in the grand entrance to the east, which is a fine circular arch between two round towers.

MRS. LESLIE.

It is generally believed that a Roman fortress formerly existed on the site of Chepstow Castle: and this appears corroborated by

the circumstance of there being rows of Roman bricks in the wall of the chapel.

WILLIE.

Are there any rooms left in the castle, Herbert?

HERBERT.

Yes, several very large ones, among which are the grand hall and kitchen : some of them are still inhabited.

MRS. LESLIE.

Perhaps Herbert you can now tell us something of the military history of this once stupendous castle.

HERBERT.

Very little mention is made of it until the civil wars, when it was several times taken and retaken, and after a gallant resistance by Sir Nicholas Keymeys and a garrison of 160 men, Cromwell, who attacked it in person, succeeded in making a breach in the curtain wall, at which his soldiers rushed in, and took possession of the place.

MARION.

Was not one of the regicides of Charles the First confined there? I think Southey mentions the circumstance.

HERBERT.

Yes. Henry Marten, one of those who signed the warrant for Charles's execution, was condemned to death upon the Restoration. His punishment was afterwards mitigated to imprisonment for life, and the keep of Chepstow Castle was the place of his captivity for twenty years. He died there in 1680. The keep has since been called "Harry Marten's Tower."

WILLIE.

Oh dear! how shocking it must have been to be shut up in a dismal tower for so many years. Did he live quite alone, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

No, my dear, his wife was allowed to live with him; it is said

that altogether he was very kindly treated, and indeed allowed to go abroad under the escort of a guard.

KATE.

Then I think that was more than he deserved after the cruel act he had committed!

MRS. LESLIE.

In all probability it was a sense of duty, and not a feeling of cruelty, which induced him to sign the warrant. However much we may sympathise with the misfortunes of the unhappy Charles, we cannot be ignorant that in many respects he brought them on himself by his weakness and insincerity; therefore we must not be too hasty in condemning the conduct of those who were against him. But now let us notice the pretty town of Chepstow, which we seem in danger of forgetting in our interest for its ancient castle.

HERBERT.

Chepstow is a market town containing between 4000 and 5000 inhabitants. It is situated partly in a valley and partly on the side of a hill gradually sloping to the river Wye. The harbour is generally full of shipping, and a considerable foreign trade is carried on. It exports timber, grain, iron, and other productions of the county. The Severn and Wye abound in salmon, which are sent from Chepstow to London and other places.

MARION.

Of course you examined the railway tubular suspension bridge?

HERBERT.

Indeed I did, and I can only say that I was more than ever surprised to see the wonders which can be effected by engineering skill, and inclined to reverence the genius of Mr. Brunel, by whom it was designed. I cannot attempt to give you any description of the method of its construction, but I may tell you that it is considered little inferior to the celebrated bridge across the Menai Straits, and has excited the admiration of the most eminent engineers from various parts of the world.

MARION.

We have very much deviated from the course we adopted last

week of mentioning the most populous places first. Newport in this county is a market-town containing nearly 20,000 inhabitants, and yet we have noticed before it some places with not a quarter of its population.

MRS. LESLIE.

Exactly so, and that shows us that we cannot lay down any particular rule of precedence. It was so natural for us to notice the interesting places we have mentioned immediately after the county town, as tourists who visit Monmouth cannot fail to be attracted by them. But now we shall be happy to receive any information relative to Newport.

MARION.

It is a flourishing seaport and market-town upon the river Usk, about four miles from the Bristol Channel; it was originally a fortified city, encompassed by walls. The ruins of a castle still exist. The town has been greatly improved during the present century, and is now considered one of the neatest towns in Monmouthshire. It has good docks, where shipbuilding is carried on to a great extent. It exports large quantities of coal and iron, and some extensive iron works are in the vicinity.

MRS. LESLIE.

We have been so much taken up with the picturesque features of this county, that we have not yet had time to notice the important iron manufacture for which it is celebrated; perhaps Herbert will mention the principal places where it is carried on.

HERBERT.

The iron works of Monmouthshire are, I believe, generally considered in connection with those of South Wales. Taken altogether, the principal seat of the manufacture occupies a district of about 25 miles, extending from Monmouthshire into Brecknockshire and Glamorganshire. Merthyr Tidvil, in Glamorganshire, is considered the centre of the works. The total produce of iron ore in 1856, in the South Wales district, was 1,784,700 tons. The quantity of pig iron produced amounted to nearly 900,000 tons.

MRS. LESLIE.

We had better confine ourselves this morning to the principal works of this county.

HERBERT.

The Bleanavon works, about six miles from Abergavenny, employ several thousand men. There are also iron works at Nant-y-Glo; and Tredegar, Pontypool, and many other places, owe their present importance to the iron manufacture.

MRS. LESLIE.

Pontypool has been more particularly celebrated for japan ware, but I understand the trade is considerably upon the decline, in consequence of the vast improvements in that manufacture at Birmingham. In the neighbourhood of Pontypool is the celebrated Crumlyn viaduct, an engineering achievement which may vie with any in the kingdom.

MARION.

Are the coal mines of Monmouthshire included in the South Wales district?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, and the total produce is nearly 9,000,000 of tons. Now, Willie, what other towns in Monmouthshire can you mention?

WILLIE.

Abergavenny and Usk.

HERBERT.

Abergavenny, the ancient Gobannium of the Romans, is situated in the vicinity of the Sugar-loaf and Skirrid mountains. It is rather a bustling and a very interesting place. There is some delightful scenery in the neighbourhood, and a fine view of the lovely vale of Usk is seen from the terrace of its ancient castle. Rather an extensive manufacture of flannel is carried on at Abergavenny. Its population is between 5000 and 6000.

MARION.

I believe the scenery of the vale of Usk is considered to vie with some parts of Switzerland and Italy. Is it not, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

It is, and with good reason; indeed, I think it impossible to

imagine a landscape of greater loveliness than is presented in the immediate neighbourhood of that rich and verdant valley. The town of Usk itself is singularly level; but meadows, orchards, and gardens are so intermingled with the houses, as to produce a picture of great beauty. The charming river which gives name to the vale flows through it, and on the opposite bank is seen the ancient church of Llanbaddoc, its white walls adding to the beauty of the scene. Then to the east of the river are the picturesque ruins of Usk castle, its massive, ivy-mantled tower overhanging a lofty precipice; and, stretching towards the north, in the neighbourhood of Abergavenny, are the mountains Herbert mentioned, forming a magnificent background to the whole. For beauty, verdure, and variety of landscape, I think the vale of Usk is unsurpassed by any spot in England. Have either of you any historical recollections of Usk castle to mention?

HERBERT.

Its records relate chiefly to the depredations committed by Owen Glendower, in the reign of Henry the Fourth, during which the castle and surrounding country were several times laid waste. This celebrated warrior was at length completely defeated at the battle of Usk, and compelled to seek safety among the inaccessible mountains of Wales. It is related that after the frustration of his ambitious plans he assumed the disguise of a shepherd, and resided with a married daughter at Grosmont, in the neighbourhood of Usk, until he died.

KATE.

I believe fishing is carried on to some extent at Usk.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; a great many of the inhabitants obtain a livelihood by it. The river abounds in salmon, which is considered the most delicious of any found in the neighbourhood of the Severn.

MARION.

As Raglan castle is only about six miles from Usk, I suppose we may as well now notice that famous fortress, which proved an asylum to Charles the First after his defeat at Naseby, and

which was the last to surrender to his enemies. What staunch royalists the Monmouthshire men were, mamma! It does one good to read about them.

MRS. LESLIE.

I see I shall never be able to quench your loyalty towards the unfortunate king by any exhibition of his failings, but must allow that if it is a weakness, it is at least an amiable one to sympathise with those in adversity.

MARION.

With the exception of the keep, no part of Raglan castle is of earlier date than the close of the fifteenth century. Many additions and improvements have been made to it since that period. The ruins are very extensive, and consist of the gateway towers, the baronial hall, the great kitchen, the donjon or keep, and some other portions which I do not now remember.

MRS. LESLIE.

The paved court, which used to be the muster ground of the castle, and the buildings around it, form one of the prettiest pictures of those magnificent ruins. Every battlement and crumbling wall is clothed with luxuriant vegetation; and, although bearing unmistakable marks of the ruthless hand of the destroyer, the dilapidated architecture and natural embellishments are truly picturesque.

KATE.

By the destroyer, of course you mean Cromwell, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

I meant the army of the Parliamentarians, under the command of Sir Thomas Fairfax, Cromwell himself being at its head.

KATE.

I forget who Raglan castle belonged to when it gave shelter to the poor defeated king.

MRS. LESLIE.

To the Marquis of Worcester, who fortified it for the royal cause, and entertained the king and his numerous suite with great

magnificence. It is related that his majesty, fearing the garrison stores would not hold out for so large a company, offered to empower his hospitable entertainer to exact supplies from the surrounding country; to which Worcester nobly replied, "I humbly thank your majesty, but my castle would not long stand if it leant upon the country. I had rather myself be brought to a morsel of bread than see one loaf wrung from the poor to entertain your majesty."

HERBERT.

If the marquis was not literally "brought to a morsel of bread," he was greatly impoverished by his loyalty, if I remember right.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; the loss sustained by him in the sale and confiscation of property alone was said to be 100,000*l.* (an enormous sum in those days), besides the vast expense of raising armies and maintaining the garrison while the place was in a state of siege. Poor old man! he did not long survive the fall of his noble castle. On the 19th of August, 1646, the garrison, reduced to the utmost extremity, surrendered to the enemy; and in December of the same year the venerable marquis expired, in the eighty-fourth year of his age.

KATE.

How much I should like to see the apartments that the king occupied! I dare say they are shown to visitors.

MRS. LESLIE.

They were formerly, but are now so completely fallen to decay, that there is danger in approaching them. An elegant stone window is pointed out as the favourite retreat of the king, where he used to sit, and endeavour to beguile his mind by the contemplation of the lovely scenery before him.

MARION.

It was not long, I think, after the surrender of Raglan that Charles was given up to his enemies by the Scots, in whom he had confided.

MRS. LESLIE.

You are right; it was early in the ensuing year; but, as our time is far advanced, we must confine our observations to the county under consideration.

MARION.

Was the late Lord Raglan, of whom we used to hear so much during the Crimean war, connected with this ancient castle, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

He received his title from it, as the son of the Duke of Beaufort, to whom it belongs.

HERBERT.

I believe Lord Raglan greatly distinguished himself during the Peninsular war?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, it was then that his brightest laurels were won. He entered the army as a cornet in his seventeenth year, when Lord Fitzroy Somerset, and after attending the Duke of Wellington to Denmark, went with him to the Peninsula, as military secretary and aide-de-camp. He signalised himself at the storming of Badajoz, and at the battles of Vittoria, Nivelles, and Toulouse. He subsequently lost an arm at Waterloo. Notwithstanding his veteran and maimed condition, on the breaking out of the Crimean war, he was appointed to the command of the Expedition against Sebastopol; and after giving evidence of undaunted bravery at Alma and Inkermann, lost his life from an attack of dysentery, brought on no doubt by fatigue, exposure, and mental anxiety. He died on the 28th of June, 1855, in the sixty-seventh year of his age. Have you any other place in Monmouthshire you wish to mention?

MARION.

I was so much surprised to find that the little town of Caerleon in this county, which now only contains about 1200 inhabitants, was one of the most luxurious Roman cities. It was called Isca Silurum, and appears to have been no less distinguished for learning than for splendour. At the time of the Saxon invasion,

it is said that the university of this place contained 200 philosophers, who studied astronomy and other sciences, and taught them to others.

MRS. LESLIE.

I will read you a note I made yesterday of an extract from a Welsh historian of the twelfth century, Giraldus Cambrensis, descriptive of the former glory of Caerleon. He said, in speaking of its appearance at that time, "Many remains of its former magnificence are still visible; splendid palaces, which once emulated with their gilded roofs the grandeur of Rome, (for it was originally built by the Roman princes, and adorned with stately edifices,) a gigantic tower, numerous baths, ruins of temples, and a theatre, the walls of which are partly standing. Here we still see, both within and without the walls, subterraneous buildings, aqueducts, vaulted caverns, and, what appeared to me most remarkable, stoves, so excellently contrived, as to diffuse their heat through imperceptible pores."

HERBERT.

I had no idea the Romans had such splendid cities in Britain.

MRS. LESLIE.

We have been accustomed to think far too meanly of the state of Britain under the Romans; but the discoveries that of late years have been made in different parts of the island have thrown great light upon the subject, and at the same time have served to corroborate history. We ought not to be surprised at the grandeur of Roman Britain, when we find it recorded by Gibbon, that "every production of art and nature, every object of convenience and luxury, which they were capable of creating by labour or procuring by trade, was accumulated in the rich and fruitful province of Britain."

KATE.

And are there now no remains of the ancient greatness of Caerleon?

MRS. LESLIE.

There are still many traces of its occupation by the Romans.

Encampments, Roman roads, some fragments of walls, the remains of a fosse, and a concave space, supposed by some antiquaries to have been the site of an amphitheatre, denote that it was once a place of much importance. Coins, rings, altars, medallions, baths, tessellated pavements, urns, &c. &c., have been frequently excavated. Until late years, these interesting relics of the past were entirely disregarded by the matter-of-fact inhabitants of Caerleon; but, I am happy to say, such as have escaped destruction are now deposited in a museum, established by the munificence of Sir Digby Mackworth, Bart., aided by the valuable exertions of John Edward Lee, Esq. I have been told that the poor inhabitants of this little town make quite a trade of searching for antiquities during the winter months.

KATE.

How strange it seems that such a splendid city should now be only an insignificant little town! But is there nothing for which it is celebrated at the present time?

MRS. LESLIE.

Nothing, I believe, except its great antiquity and the wild and romantic scenery by which it is surrounded. In the vicinity are some extensive tin works. Caerwent, a small village about eight miles from Caerleon, was also a Roman station, scarcely inferior in size and importance to Caerleon itself. It was the *Venta Silurum* of the Romans. I think we have now mentioned the principal places of interest in Monmouthshire; and in concluding our notice of the county, it will be well for us to reflect a moment on the rise and fall of cities, and the perishing nature of all sublunary things. Not only have the ancient glories of Babylon, Nineveh, Athens, Greece, and Rome passed away, but, to come nearer home, the magnificence of *Isca* and *Venta Silurum* have long been known only as records of the past. In like manner the cities of England as it is, will one day cease to be: but ever bear in mind, my dear children, that "he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

CONVERSATION XV.



GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

SUBJECTS :—Ancient Inhabitants.—Conquest by Romans.—Boundaries.—Size.—Natural Features.—Forest of Dean.—Mineral Produce.—Manufactured Productions of County.—City of Gloucester.—Its great Antiquity.—Occupancy by Romans.—Roman Antiquities.—Samian Pottery.—Historical Reminiscences of City.—Present Aspect of City.—Cathedral.—Monuments.—Foundation of Sabbath Schools.—Ancient Desecration of Sabbath.—Pin Manufacture.—Bristol.—Ancient Traffic in Slaves.—Vicissitudes of City.—Present Prosperity.—Objects of Interest.—St. Mary Redcliffe.—The Poet Chatterton.—Sebastian Cabot.—Discovery of America.—First Umbrella in England.—Clifton.—Cheltenham.—Clothing Districts of Gloucestershire.—Changes that have taken place.—Stroud.—Its Manufactures.—Berkeley Castle.—Dr. Jenner.—Cirencester.—Roman Remains.—Amphitheatre.—Present State of Town.—Woodchester.—Fairford Church.

WE are this morning, my dear children (said Mrs. Leslie), about to notice a county, with many parts of which you are well acquainted; but I doubt not that your investigation, during the past week, into the ancient history and present condition of Gloucestershire has added to your interest in the places you have long known, and also increased your store of information.

MARION.

Yes, that it has, mamma; I think there are few things more interesting than to trace out the early history of a place one is acquainted with, and compare its ancient with its present state.

MRS. LESLIE.

And what information have you gathered relative to the ancient state of Gloucestershire?

MARION.

As usual, our inquiries have gone back to a period long before the name of Gloucestershire was thought of. At the time of the Roman invasion, the inhabitants of this county were known by the name of Dobuni, and were among the first who submitted to the Romans. On their subjection, Aulus Plautius, the Roman commander, fortified the district against the attacks of the neighbouring but unconquered Silures, the brave British tribe who so long resisted the Roman yoke under their noble chief Caractacus. The territories of the Dobuni were afterwards included in the province of Flavia Cæsariensis, and during the Saxon Heptarchy were comprehended in the kingdom of Mercia.

HERBERT.

There were several important Roman stations in this county, but I suppose we had better notice them in connection with the towns that have been built upon their sites?

MRS. LESLIE.

Certainly. But first let us notice the boundaries, size, and natural features of the county. I dare say Willie can tell how it is bounded.

WILLIE.

Gloucestershire is bounded on the north by Worcestershire and Warwickshire, on the east by Warwickshire and Oxfordshire, on the south by Somersetshire and Wiltshire, and on the west by Herefordshire and Monmouthshire.

HERBERT.

Gloucestershire is about sixty miles long and forty broad, and appears divided by nature into three distinct districts, which are termed the Hill, the Vale, and the Forest districts. The Hill district includes the Cotswold and Stroudwater hills. The Vale district, the vale of Evesham, which is also partly in Worcestershire, and the vales of Gloucester and Berkeley. The Forest district is west of the Severn, and comprehends the valuable forest of Dean.

KATE.

I have been often going to ask you, *mamma*, from what the word Cotswold is derived.

MRS. LESLIE.

According to Camden, the first syllable is taken from sheep-cots, and "wold" is an ancient name for hill; therefore Cotswold simply means hills celebrated for feeding sheep. The Cotswold sheep are very celebrated, and it is said that the Spaniards, who are so famed for their fine merino wool, procured their first sheep from these hills.

HERBERT.

I have read that the oak timber of the forest of Dean was so much renowned for shipbuilding in the reign of Elizabeth, that an ambassador was sent from Spain to endeavour to accomplish its destruction. Notwithstanding the boasted confidence of Philip of Spain in his "Invincible Armada," I think it looks very much as if he feared after all that it could not stand against the "wooden walls of Old England."

KATE.

The forest has been very much built upon of late years, therefore, of course it cannot be nearly so thickly wooded as formerly.

MRS. LESLIE.

You are right. In the time of Henry the Sixth it was described as being quite a harbour for the hordes of robbers which infested the banks of the Severn. Since that time large tracts of land have been cleared, and are now occupied by several hundred houses. The forest, however, still contains large quantities of valuable timber, and abounds in coal and iron ore. The inhabitants for the most part are miners and colliers, and enjoy many privileges.

HERBERT.

I find by Mr. Hunt's "Mining Records," that in 1856 nearly 110,000 tons of iron ore were raised in the Forest of Dean. Of this quantity only 24,000 tons of pig iron were manufactured in the county. The produce of the collieries of Gloucestershire, Somersetshire, and Devonshire is returned together, and amounts

to more than 1,500,000 tons, upwards of half of which was obtained from the pits of Gloucestershire.

MRS. LESLIE.

Now, Willie, tell us for what Gloucestershire is more particularly famed.

WILLIE.

For cheese, and the manufacture of woollen cloth.

MRS. LESLIE.

Very good. We will now turn our attention to Gloucester, the county town.

MARION.

The city of Gloucester, which gives the name to the county, is situated on the eastern bank of the river Severn, and contains about 18,000 inhabitants. It is supposed that a British town existed there before the Roman invasion, and that upon the subjection of the Britons, the emperor Claudius established a colony on the spot, which he called Colonia Glevum. Many traces of the Romans have, I think, been found at different times.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes. Urns, coins, a statera or Roman steel-yard, and, as lately as 1854, a beautiful tessellated pavement was discovered during the progress of the works for the sewerage of the city. A large quantity of fictilia of Samian pottery was also found near to the cathedral, and has been partially restored. A Roman altar and many articles of common pottery have also been discovered.

KATE.

Will you tell me what you mean by Samian pottery, mamma? I remember seeing the name affixed to some bright red specimens in the museum at Cirencester, but I did not know why it was so called.

MRS. LESLIE.

From the conjecture of its having been originally made at Samos, a Grecian island of the Archipelago, famed for the fineness and beautiful red colour of its clays. The art appears also to

have been carried on in France, Italy, Spain, and other places, but it is considered that what is found in England must have been imported, as our clays are not adapted to the manufacture. The Romans appear to have highly valued the Samian pottery, as in many instances it has been found riveted, in a manner similar to that by which we repair broken china.

MARION.

I was quite sorry to find among the historical notices of Gloucester, in the reign of Charles the First, that after the battle of Edge Hill the citizens took part with the parliament against the king. It appears that Charles, with an army of 30,000 men, besieged the city for a month, and after all was obliged to give it up. This it is supposed was one of the causes which led to his final overthrow. On the restoration of Charles the Second the city walls were razed to the ground by order of the king.

KATE.

Gloucester has not at all the appearance of an ancient city, mamma.

MRS. LESLIE.

No, most of the houses and public buildings are of comparatively recent date, and are built in a handsome modern style. In 1814 a mineral spring was discovered, which led to the erection of new and elegant buildings, but it has never acquired much celebrity, although occasionally used for medicinal purposes by the inhabitants.

HERBERT.

In speaking of the modern appearance of Gloucester, we must, I am sure, except its venerable cathedral, some parts of which it is believed have existed ever since Saxon times. You remember the short thick pillars, and the massive arches of the crypt, which papa told us were of Saxon architecture, when we visited the cathedral, do you not, Katie?

KATE.

Oh yes! And the sixteen immense pillars of the nave. You know, Herbert, you and I measured one of them with a piece of

string, and found it took seven yards to go round it. Papa told us they were Norman pillars. I remember they were very plain, and had a rough, reddish kind of appearance.

MRS. LESLIE.

And for that reason they have frequently been mistaken for red sandstone, while in fact they are constructed of the oolite stone of the district, the reddish appearance having been caused, I am told, by the action of heat upon them, when the cathedral was partially destroyed by fire several centuries ago. Those huge columns remained otherwise uninjured by the conflagration.

MARION.

Gloucester cathedral is considered one of the finest in England, is it not, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

It is; and I should think very justly so. Some parts of its architecture are exquisitely beautiful. Do you remember the magnificent tracery of the walls of the choir, the elegance of the vaulted roof, and the elaborate oak carving of the stalls?

MARION.

Yes, mamma, perfectly. And the beautiful roof of the great cloisters which I admired so much. And the magnificent tomb of Edward the Second, which we were told by the verger was one of the finest pieces of sculpture of the middle ages in the kingdom.

KATE.

And then there was that beautiful monument in the north aisle of a lady and her baby, who died at sea, and are represented as rising from the waves, and being taken by angels into heaven. I shall never forget how lovely and innocent the dear little baby looked in its mother's arms.

MRS. LESLIE.

And you must not forget, Katie, that we have many other subjects to talk about this morning, which we should be compelled to omit if we were to recapitulate all the fine-works of sculpture that

we saw on our visit to the cathedral. So, with briefly mentioning the monuments of two eminent benefactors of mankind, we must pass on to conclude our recollections of the city of Gloucester. I allude to Dr. Jenner, the discoverer of vaccination; and Robert Raikes, the founder of Sunday-schools, both of whom were natives of this county.

KATE.

I think I have heard that the idea of Sunday-schools was formed by Robert Raikes seeing so many children playing about the streets of Gloucester on a Sunday?

MRS. LESLIE.

You are right. Raikes was not only a benevolent but a pious man, and, as such, could not bear to see the sacred hours of the Sabbath-day spent in such an unworthy manner; therefore, with the assistance of the Rev. Mr. Stock, succeeded in establishing the first Sunday-school in 1781. Since that period, as I need not tell you, thousands and tens of thousands of the little ones of our beloved land are brought under Christian instruction every Sabbath-day, and are thus early made acquainted with those sacred truths, which, by God's blessing, can make them "wise unto salvation."

MARION.

I remember reading that, at one time, dancing round the May-pole and such kind of sports were not thought at all wrong on a Sunday, and were the allowed amusements of the people.

MRS. LESLIE.

True. They were rather sanctioned than otherwise, both by the king and clergy. In the reign of James the First, a book, entitled "The Book of Innocent Sunday Sports," was published by royal authority. Even your favourite Charles the First assented to it, by which he gave great offence to the Puritans. It has been asserted that this was one of the first causes of that unpopularity which ended in his execution.

MARION.

Poor Charles! I am sorry to find another charge against him.

But I think I can be his advocate still, mamma. I am sure he must afterwards have repented of having sanctioned such irreligion. You know he was considered a very different man in his latter days.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; there is reason to believe that during his season of adversity his views and feelings on many points were greatly altered for the better; therefore, your charitable conclusion is very likely to be correct.

KATE.

Do you know, mamma, whether pin-making is still carried on in Gloucester? The art appears to have been introduced there in 1625 by John Tilsby, and for a long time this city is said to have been almost the only place in England where pins were made.

MRS. LESLIE.

It could not have been the first place in which the manufacture was carried on, as Stowe relates that pins were made in England as early as 1543. A century later the trade appears to have centred in Gloucester, but owing to the removal of workmen to distant places, and from other causes, it has been greatly on the decline for many years, and I am informed that the last manufactory was closed about three years ago.

WILLIE.

How *could* ladies have dressed before pins were invented, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Ladies, and gentlemen too, Willie, used clasps, laces, and sometimes skewers made of brass, silver, or gold. Catharine Howard, one of the wives of Henry the Eighth, is said to have been the first lady in England who used pins at her toilette. They were brought from France for her use in 1540, and after that were very soon made in England. Now, Willie, can you tell us the chief rivers of this county?

WILLIE.

The Severn, the Wye, the Lower Avon, and the Isis or Thames.

HERBERT.

Shall we mention Bristol now, mamma? We have noticed it in connection with this county, although it is partly in Somersetshire, and indeed is a city and county of itself.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; I shall be happy to receive any information respecting it.

HERBERT.

The original city, which I suppose was merely a collection of huts surrounded by earthworks, is said to have been founded by Brennus, a British king or chief, about 380 years before Christ. It is described as a place of some importance under the Romans, but the most prosperous period of its ancient history appears to have been after the Saxon invasion.

MARION.

I have seen Bristol mentioned as a commercial port in the time of the Saxons.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; even then it was in a flourishing condition, but I regret to say that a considerable part of the traffic then carried on arose from the sale of slaves. In the eleventh century a mart was held there for that unholy purpose, and frequent exports of slaves to Ireland took place. I will read you an extract from an old historian. He says, "Directly opposite the Irish coast, from a place called Bristol, frequent excursions are made by the English into Ireland, carrying with them whole cargoes of slaves, which they had brought up in England; these they expose for sale." He also states that "whole rows of wretched beings of both sexes, fastened together with ropes like cattle, many adorned with beauty, and in the bloom of youth, are daily offered to any who choose to buy."

KATE.

I am sure, mamma, these conversations are calculated to make us more thankful than ever for the blessings we enjoy. We used to think England was a happy land compared with others, but

now we find that it is in a happy state compared with itself—that is, with what it was several centuries ago.

MRS. LESLIE.

Very true, my dear. But we must proceed.

MARION.

Bristol was one of the cities that suffered from the invasions of the Danes. In the reign of Edward the Elder, their ravages extended along the western shores of the country, which caused that monarch to erect several castles for its defence. One of these was built at Bristol, and declared to be “the goodliest of five built upon the Avon.”

WILLIE.

Are there any ruins of it left, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

No; like almost all the castles we have spoken of, it was destroyed by Cromwell’s orders during the civil wars. Streets have long since been built upon the spot it occupied.

KATE.

Is Bristol still considered the second city in England?

MRS. LESLIE.

It is the second *city*, certainly, although many towns now exceed it in population, and as a commercial port it has long been eclipsed by Liverpool; it is nevertheless a place of great importance, and its trade is in a flourishing and prosperous state. The population of the city is upwards of 137,000.

MARION.

Does that include the population of Clifton?

MRS. LESLIE.

No. At the time the last census was taken, that delightful suburb contained nearly 18,000 inhabitants beside. But there are still several objects of interest in Bristol to claim our notice.

MARION.

Oh! yes; there are the noble quay and harbour, the handsome bridges, the docks, the cathedral, and upwards of twenty churches,

many of which are very handsome; but I suppose the highest object of interest in Bristol is the magnificent church of St. Mary Redcliffe, the finest parish church in England.

MRS. LESLIE.

You are right. That beautiful structure, which is built in the form of a cathedral, is famed far and wide as the chief architectural beauty of Bristol; and there is also a melancholy interest attached to it from its association with the misguided and unhappy Chatterton.

MARION.

I remember that Chatterton was a poet of Bristol, and that he was the supposed author of some poems, which he declared were written by Rowley, a monk, two centuries before. But I do not at all know in what way he was connected with the church of St. Mary Redcliffe.

MRS. LESLIE.

His father was sexton of that church for many years, and on the production of the so-called ancient MSS., young Chatterton declared that they had been given him by his father, who found them in an old chest in the muniment room over the northern porch of the church. This story gained some credit from its probability, and caused him to be introduced to several men of letters, among whom was the Hon. Horace Walpole, who submitted the MSS. in question to competent authorities, by whom they were immediately pronounced to be forgeries. Notwithstanding the mortification of such a disclosure, the "boy-poet" went up to London, hoping still to make his way in the literary world. He was well received by the booksellers, and for a time found ample employment in writing political pamphlets, &c., but his remuneration was altogether inadequate to his support; and after being reduced to the verge of starvation, he terminated his earthly career by suicide, in the eighteenth year of his age. Do you remember any other noted persons who were born at Bristol, Herbert?

HERBERT.

Sebastian Cabot, the celebrated navigator, and Robert Southey were natives of Bristol.

WILLIE.

Now, Herbert, please to tell me what you meant yesterday when you said Cabot was the discoverer of America. I am sure Christopher Columbus discovered it, for Miss Selby has told me over and over again all about his thinking that there must be land on the other side of the Atlantic, and how he went from one king to another to get them to let him have ships to go and find it. And at last the queen of Spain gave him leave to go; and he did find it too, for I remember Miss Selby told me that on the very night that the sailors had made him promise to go back again, they came in sight of land.

HERBERT.

Well done! Willie, you have remembered the story capitally. And now I will show you how you and I are both right in the matter. If you remember, I said Cabot was the first who discovered the *continent* of America. Columbus, during his first voyage, only found out some of the American islands; but John Cabot, a Venetian merchant, and Sebastian, his son, who were afterwards sent out from England, by Henry the Seventh, were actually the first who discovered the main land of America.

WILLIE.

I dare say they would never have thought of going, if Columbus had not put it into their heads.

HERBERT.

Very likely, and for that reason, Willie, we will let him have all the honour of the discovery. Only, in point of fact, it is as I tell you. But I see mamma expects us to hasten on to Clifton.

KATE.

Mamma, I am sure, will give me time to mention that I have read that the first umbrella seen in England, was at Bristol, in the year 1780. It was introduced from Leghorn, which, at that time, carried on an extensive trade with the port of Bristol.

MARION.

One can scarcely imagine that Clifton was an insignificant little village, not much more than a century ago; but such, it

appears, was the case. The famous medicinal spring, which began to attract public notice about the close of the 17th century, first brought the place into repute, and its houses and public buildings have been increasing in number and magnificence up to the present time.

KATE.

The town is built upon cliffs overlooking the river Avon, is it not?

MRS. LESLIE.

It is, and for the salubrity of its air, it is sometimes called the "Montpellier of England." To view Clifton to advantage, it should be seen from the opposite shore. Pile upon pile of lordly mansions, magnificent terraces, and ornamental gardens, seem to rise majestically from the heights which overhang "the rocky Avon," and make it indeed appear, what it has been not inaptly termed, "a city of princes."

MARION.

The scenery around the hot wells is very picturesque.

MRS. LESLIE.

I should rather term it sublime, my dear. The immense height of the precipitous limestone rocks, their varying colour, and the yawning chasm which intervenes, combine to give one an idea of awful grandeur not easily conceived. Numerous crystals and dog-tooth spars, you remember, are found in the fissures of the rock. But we must not dwell upon the beauties of Clifton. Perhaps Willie can mention a fashionable inland watering-place of Gloucestershire.

WILLIE.

Cheltenham, mamma.

MARION.

The market-town of Cheltenham is an exceedingly pleasant place, sheltered on the north by the Cotswold hills. Like Clifton, it owes its celebrity to its mineral waters, which were accidentally discovered about the year 1716. The population of Cheltenham in 1851 was upwards of 35,000.

HERBERT.

Why, Marion, you do not mean to dismiss Cheltenham in such a summary way as that, surely! One would think you were speaking of a place you knew only by hearsay. Don't you remember how much we enjoyed ourselves at the horticultural fête at the Old Wells, and how greatly we admired the new pump-room, which we were told was the largest room in the county?

MARION.

Oh! yes, I remember it perfectly; but what I was most struck with was the noble avenue of majestic elms, the shade of which we found so refreshing on that sultry summer's day. The Old Well walk, you know, is upwards of a quarter of a mile in length, and the trees a hundred feet high, and more than a century old. But although Cheltenham is such a gay and fashionable place, I do not feel half as much interested in it as in those places which have been rendered famous by historical associations, or are celebrated for mining or manufacturing industry.

MRS. LESLIE.

We cannot, then, do better than gratify such a laudable preference, by at once directing our attention to the clothing towns of Gloucestershire. Can you mention, Katie, the places in this county where the manufacture of woollen cloth is chiefly carried on?

KATE.

The books I have referred to mention Stroud, Painswick, Chal-ford, Wotton-under-Edge, Dursley, and many smaller places, as celebrated for woollen goods; but I remember hearing papa say some time ago that a great change had taken place of late years in the clothing districts of Gloucestershire, and that many of the small mills were closed, or used for other purposes than the cloth manufacture.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; the change has been effected principally by the vast improvements in machinery, and the extensive use of steam power. Fifty years ago, in addition to a few large manufacturers, there

were a considerable number of small ones, such as made from two to five or six pieces of cloth (technically termed "ends"), a week. This class has been entirely superseded by the large manufacturers, men of capital, who by the use of machinery and steam put it out of the power of those with humbler means to compete with them. These large manufacturers, for the most part, have concentrated their establishments near to the great centres of canal wharves and railway stations, and thus the mills of the more remote parts of the valleys have become quite forsaken.

HERBERT.

I understand there has been a great change in the neighbourhood of Painswick and Horsley, the northern and southern extremity of the chief clothing district of this county.

MRS. LESLIE.

Indeed there has. There were formerly as many as twelve or fourteen mills in the two parishes, there is now but one engaged in the cloth trade. The others that have not been taken down, nor fallen to decay, are converted into sawing, corn, silk, or pin mills. Fifty years ago, a very extensive clothing trade was also carried on at Wotton-under-Edge, Dursley, and Uley, but the manufacture of those places has now almost, if not entirely, disappeared.

KATE.

But surely, dear mamma, there must be as much cloth required as there used to be. Perhaps, however, Yorkshire, or some other part of the country, is more celebrated for it now?

MRS. LESLIE.

No, my dear; the west of England woollen district, of which Stroud is the centre, is still unrivalled in the production of all the finer kinds of cloth: and notwithstanding the diminution in the number of the mills, the quantity made there is much greater than at any former period. Those mighty agencies, to which I have referred, combine in producing such a result.

MARION.

Stroud, I believe, is especially celebrated for the beautiful scarlet cloth, from which officers' uniforms are made?

MRS. LESLIE.

You are right; the water, which you know so bountifully intersects its valleys, is peculiarly adapted for the scarlet dye, and the colour produced is the most brilliant of any made in England, or, I believe, in any part of the world. Superfine broad cloths, kerseymeres, doeskins, and other varieties, are also made at Stroud. At Chalford, three miles distant, the coarser kinds of cloth for the army, and for exportation, are made.

HERBERT.

We must not leave this part of Gloucestershire without noticing the small, but ancient town of Berkeley, situated in the beautiful vale of that name, and so celebrated in history for its castle, where Edward the Second was cruelly murdered by his queen and her favourite, Mortimer.

MARION.

Berkeley Castle is still in good preservation, is it not, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes. I believe it is one of the most perfect of the Norman castles we have left in England. The room in which the murder of Edward the Second was perpetrated, is still shown to visitors and is called the "dungeon room."

HERBERT.

Berkeley is also celebrated as the birthplace of Dr. Edward Jenner, whom we have before spoken of as the discoverer of vaccination.

MRS. LESLIE.

We might have much interesting conversation about that eminent physician, and the opposition he encountered from the faculty and others before his important discovery was received, but we must postpone it for another opportunity, as our time is drawing to a close, and much interesting matter relating to this county remains to be noticed. We have referred to its early occupancy

by the Romans, and mentioned some of the traces of that conquering people which have been found in their important military station, Colonia Glevum, now Gloucester. But I presume you have something to tell me respecting the ancient state of Cirencester, the Corinium of the Romans.

HERBERT.

Indeed we have, mamma! And much more than we shall have time to tell this morning. It appears that Cirencester, or I suppose I should say Corinium, was one of the finest cities of Roman Britain, and not only remarkable for its fortifications, but for its luxury and refinement. Its architecture is proved, by the bases of capitals and other portions of stone work which have been found, to have been of a highly classical character; and the beautiful tessellated pavements give us some idea of its ancient magnificence.

WILLIE.

Do you mean those pretty pavements which we saw in Earl Bathurst's museum at Cirencester, and which were made of little tiny bits of different coloured stone no bigger than dice?

HERBERT.

Yes, Willie. Those that papa told us had been made 1600 or 1700 years, and yet the colours looked almost as bright and fresh as if they had just been finished.

KATE.

What laborious, painstaking people those Romans must have been! It must have taken an immense time to have paved a street with such very little bits of stone!

HERBERT.

Those beautifully inlaid pavements were not used to pave streets with, Katie, but as floorings for rooms, and I believe only the best rooms in the Roman villas. But even for that purpose some tolerable amount of patience must have been required.

MRS. LESLIE.

Indeed you are right! The last pavement discovered at Ciren-

cester, which was in 1849, consisted of the larger portion of the flooring of a room twenty-five feet square; and yet it was composed of pieces of stone no larger than the end of my finger.

HERBERT.

I remember seeing it at the museum. The pattern was arranged in medallions, and evidently originally consisted of nine, though the patterns of five only were preserved. The corner medallions represented the seasons, or the heathen divinities supposed to rule over them. Flora and Ceres were nearly perfect; Pomona was partly destroyed, and the fourth corner, which no doubt represented Winter, was gone altogether.

KATE.

I remember a long time ago walking in the "Querns" at Cirencester, which you know mamma is the name of a field close to the town, and which is all up hill and down dale. I was particularly struck with the singular appearance of a large open space with very high mounds on two of the sides. My cousin Frank called it the "bull ring," and my aunt, who was with us, said it was the remains of a Roman amphitheatre.

MARION.

I suppose then that the Romans introduced the barbarous amusement of "bull-fighting" into Britain. That, at any rate, does not give one a very favourable idea of their high state of civilisation!

MRS. LESLIE.

I think it more likely that these amphitheatres were devoted to the exhibitions of the Roman gladiators, as bull-fighting is peculiarly a Spanish entertainment. It is true it was common in England in later times, and was not entirely abolished until the present century, but I do not think its introduction can be ascribed to the Romans.

KATE.

It was quite as bad though, for men to have to fight with lions, as poor Androcles was condemned to do; or worse still, to fight with each other until one died! I shall never forget a picture I once saw of "The dying gladiator."

MRS. LESLIE.

You say very true, Katie. Exhibitions of such a nature, whatever form they take, are revolting to humanity, and ought to be discountenanced by every country professing itself Christian. It is sad to think that in some of the continental countries of Europe, notwithstanding the boasted civilisation of the nineteenth century, bull-fighting is still one of their most popular amusements. But have you anything to mention relative to the present state of Cirencester.

MARION.

It is a fine old town containing upwards of 6000 inhabitants. The parish church is considered one of the most magnificent in England. The trade is of a mixed character.

KATE.

Tewkesbury is an ancient town of Gloucestershire, containing nearly 6000 inhabitants. It was formerly the seat of an extensive manufacture of hosiery, but the trade of late years has considerably declined. In 1471 a severe engagement took place near the town, between the Yorkists and Lancastrians, when the latter were defeated, Margaret was taken prisoner, and her son assassinated.

HERBERT.

In our notice of the Roman remains of this county, we must not forget those found at Woodchester, a small village near to Stroud. For number and beauty, I believe they are almost unequalled.

MARION.

Oh pray, dear mamma, don't let us stop to enumerate them, or we shall not have time to say a word about the little town of Fairford, which we know so well.

MRS. LESLIE.

Fairford is a much smaller place than those which usually engage our attention.

MARION.

Yes; but you know, mamma, it is celebrated far and wide for its beautiful church.

MRS. LESLIE.

Well, then, you may briefly give me the history of its ex-

quisitely painted windows, which, I believe, are unsurpassed in the kingdom.

MARION.

The glass, on which is represented several parts of Scripture history, was taken from a ship bound for Rome, by John Tame, a merchant who had resided for some time in this quiet little town. Having resolved to erect a church in which to place his treasure, he selected Fairford, and purchased the manor of Henry the Seventh. The church was commenced in 1493, and the glass placed in twenty-eight windows.

WILLIE.

It is a sad pity that it was broken in so many places, and obliged to be mended with plain glass.

HERBERT.

I think, after all we have heard of the way in which Cromwell destroyed the churches, the people of Fairford may think themselves very well off that it was preserved at all. There would not have been a fragment left for us to have seen, depend upon it, Willie, if their ancestors had not had sense enough to take it down and bury it until the civil wars were over! I wonder whether you or I should have thought of such a plan?

MARION.

It makes me more angry than ever with Cromwell, when I think he would have destroyed those beautiful church windows!

MRS. LESLIE.

You should moderate your indignation, my dear, by considering the then corrupt state of the English Church, which for a considerable time had been departing farther and farther from the pure principles of the Reformation: In his just detestation of popery, Cromwell determined to uproot every remaining vestige of it with an unsparing hand, and in his zeal for puritanic simplicity, he overstepped the bounds of prudence. As a work of art, Fairford may justly be proud of her painted windows, but for any further use, it will be well for us to remember that "The Most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands."

CONVERSATION XVI.

OXFORDSHIRE.

SUBJECTS : — Boundaries. — Size. — Ancient Inhabitants. — Chiltern Hills. — Oxford. — Foundation of University erroneously ascribed to Alfred the Great. — Earliest Efforts for Education of Laity. — Strolling Minstrels of Olden Time. — General Ignorance of People. — Resistance of Oxford to William the Conqueror. — Wars of Stephen and the Empress Maude. — Queen Elizabeth a Patron to the University. — Martyrdom of Cranmer, Ridley, and Latimer. — Colleges and other Buildings of Oxford. — Magnificence of City. — Blenheim Palace. — Maze or Labyrinth. — Manufactures of Woodstock. — Banbury. — For what celebrated. — Witney. — Introduction of Blanket Manufacture. — Present State of Trade. — Chipping Norton. — Henley-on-Thames and other Places. — Evidences of Roman Occupation. — Rollrich Stones.

“ I AM sure I know some of those places, mamma,” said Willie, to his mother, as she laid some beautifully executed drawings on the table.

“ I should be much more surprised if you did not, my love,” was her reply. “ In looking over my portfolio, I met with these sketches ; and although you are acquainted with the places they represent, I thought a glance at them might increase the interest of our conversation.”

WILLIE.

That is just like you, mamma ! you are always thinking how you can make our studies most agreeable.

MRS. LESLIE.

Well, I am sure it will be an agreeable occupation for you, Willie, to trace the boundaries of Oxfordshire on that pretty coloured map that lies before you.

WILLIE.

Oxfordshire is bounded on the north by Warwickshire and Northamptonshire, on the east by Buckinghamshire, on the south and south-east by Berkshire, and on the west by Gloucestershire. It is separated from Berkshire by the river Thames.

MRS. LESLIE.

You see Oxfordshire is a very irregularly shaped county, and greatly varies in breadth. At the widest part it is about thirty miles broad, while in the neighbourhood of Oxford its breadth is not more than seven miles. Its greatest length is about fifty-four miles.

MARION.

The earliest known inhabitants of this county were the Dobuni, whose territories we last week ascertained were included by the Romans in their province of Flavia Cæsariensis. During the Saxon heptarchy the county was included in the kingdom of Mercia.

HERBERT.

The soil of Oxfordshire is well adapted for agriculture, which is the principal resource of its inhabitants. The Chiltern hills, supposed by Camden to be so termed from an old British word *Cylt*, or *Chilt*, signifying chalk, are a range of chalky elevations, abounding in flint, and extending from Berkshire to Buckinghamshire. These are the only eminences of note; and I do not think there is anything else remarkable in the general features of the county.

MRS. LESLIE.

Then, after Willie has mentioned the principal rivers, we may as well at once turn our attention to Oxford, the capital, and the city from which the county takes its name.

WILLIE.

The principal rivers of Oxfordshire are the Isis or Thames, the Thame, the Cherwell and the Windrush.

MARION.

Oxford contains about 28,000 inhabitants, and is considered one of the most beautiful cities in the world. It is surrounded by

meadows, and situated just where the rivers Isis and Cherwell meet. It is generally believed to be a place of great antiquity, although its origin is involved in obscurity, the earliest well authenticated accounts going no farther back than the reign of Alfred, who is known to have resided there, with his three sons, and greatly to have promoted the cause of learning in that place.

KATE.

One of the first things I remember learning about Alfred was, that he was the founder of the University of Oxford.

MRS. LESLIE.

Its foundation has generally been ascribed to him; but as no institutions resembling our universities existed in Europe, before the end of the 12th or the beginning of the 13th century, it is concluded that Alfred's efforts only extended to increasing the schools, and the general encouragement of literature. In that respect he may indeed be considered as the father of the University; but there is no document extant, or other means by which it may be proved that he was in any way connected with University College, of which tradition has asserted him to be the founder. It is one of the most ancient of the colleges, and there is every reason to believe owes its origin to William of Durham in the 13th century.

MARION.

I think schools were generally established in connection with monasteries in the Anglo-Saxon times; and were only intended for the monks?

MRS. LESLIE.

You are right. The illustrious Alfred was the first person in England, as the emperor Charlemagne was in France, who attempted the education of the laity. It was the policy of the clergy to keep the people in ignorance; thus books of secular instruction were deemed unlawful. Pope Gregory in writing on this subject to a bishop of Gaul, thus expressed himself, "I was informed (which I cannot express without shame), that you teach grammar: at this I was so grieved that I groaned for sadness."

HERBERT.

Poor Pope Gregory ! I fear you would have had but little peace of mind, if Dr. Winstanley had been one of your contemporaries !

WILLIE.

But, dear mamma, if there were no schools except for the monks, what did the other people do, for if they had not much learning, I suppose, at least, that they were taught to read and write ?

MRS. LESLIE.

Indeed, my dear, they were not taught to do either. In those days there were not any printed books. What few books there were were written on parchment, and were only found in monasteries, or the houses of the nobles.

WILLIE.

But did the people never know anything about what happened before they lived, mamma ? I cannot see how they could have any knowledge at all if there were no schools nor books to teach them !

MRS. LESLIE.

The little information they possessed was derived from strolling minstrels, who were something like the ballad singers of our day. When any public event occurred, it was made the subject of a poem or ballad, and sung by minstrels, who went about from place to place, gathering crowds of people round them, eager to hear what they had to tell. In this manner, some of the historical parts of the sacred Scriptures were made known to the people. To give you some idea of the former value of books, and of the impossibility of persons of ordinary means possessing them, I may tell you that as late as the 14th century, it is related that William Montague, Earl of Salisbury, gave 66*l.*, or about 1056*l.* of our present money, for a historical bible. And as for writing ! that was an accomplishment never dreamt of by the people, of those days.

KATE.

Then I am afraid our ancestors had not benefited very much by the efforts Alfred made for learning 500 years before '

MRS. LESLIE.

What little had been done towards the education of the people in Saxon times, by Adhelm, Bede, Alfred, and some others, was almost extinguished during the Norman power in England; and it was not until the days of Wickliffe and the Lollards that permanent steps were taken for the education of the working classes.

HERBERT.

I remember one of the most serious charges against the Lollards, in the time of Henry the Fourth, was, their having "made and written books, and *wickedly* informed and instructed the people."

MRS. LESLIE.

It was; and one which was prohibited "on pain of penalties or death."

WILLIE.

Oh, dear mamma! how glad I am that *you* did not live in those days!

KATE.

It appears that Oxford was one of the places that resisted the Norman Conqueror. I do not wonder at it if he wanted to do away with the learning that Alfred introduced!

MRS. LESLIE.

There is no reason to believe that William the Conqueror had any personal antipathy to the spread of knowledge. It was the papal system, which then prevailed, that tended to keep the minds of the people in ignorance and darkness; and I expect their dislike to receive him as their king arose more from the belief that he was a foreign usurper than from any apprehension that he would interfere with their literary privileges. But, you know, they were soon compelled to yield to him, as he took the city by storm in 1067.

MARION.

In the historical notices of Oxford I find that William's granddaughter, the Empress Matilda, or Maude as she is generally called, took possession of the castle during her contest with her

cousin Stephen for the crown. She was conveyed there in a litter, disguised as a corpse. But in the middle of winter, when the garrison was in a state of siege, and reduced to great extremity by famine, she was glad to adopt another expedient by which herself and four trusty knights were enabled to escape from their place of refuge.

WILLIE.

Please to tell us how they managed to escape.

MARION.

The ground at the time being covered with snow, they clothed themselves in white garments, as being less likely to be seen, and crossing the river Isis, which was frozen, travelled on foot six miles through deep snow to Abingdon, where they obtained horses to take them to Wallingford, at which place Matilda was joyfully received.

KATE.

But she was obliged to give up the crown to her cousin after all, was she not?

MARION.

Yes; the struggle between them lasted several years, and at last Matilda gave it up, and retired to Normandy. Her son afterwards renewed the war, which was only ended by the death of Stephen. I have always felt sorry for Matilda, because she was the rightful heir, and Stephen only a usurper.

WILLIE.

How sad it was for cousins to be at war with each other! I am sure I could never behave so unkindly to my little cousin Lucy.

MRS. LESLIE.

I hope not, indeed, my dear. When two persons make up their mind to have the same thing, at any cost, there is no knowing, you see, to what it may lead them.

MARION.

Queen Elizabeth is said to have taken a great interest in the University of Oxford.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; she attended many of its disputations, and even occasionally made a public speech in Latin. She was also very zealous in uprooting every remnant of popery from the University, and prohibited the use of "superstitious books, and plate remaining in superstitious fashion." It is related that her Majesty, being rather weary of a prosaic oration by the Bishop of Hereford, sent to tell him to "cut it short," which he said he was unable to do, for fear of putting himself out altogether. The next morning the queen condescended to make a Latin speech; and in the middle of it, observing the Lord Treasurer Burleigh, who was old and lame, standing, she stopped short, and desired a stool to be brought for him, and then proceeded as if there had been no interruption. This, it is supposed, was her method of putting to the blush the orator of the day before. But now, Willie, I think there is a historical recollection of Oxford which you can mention. I mean a very sad event which took place in wicked Queen Mary's reign.

WILLIE.

Oh, yes; the martyrdom of Latimer, Ridley, and Cranmer, the good bishops who were burnt at Oxford because they would not be Roman Catholics. I remember how sorry I felt when you told me about them as we stood looking at that beautiful monument close to the churchyard, which, I think you said, was put up to show the place where they suffered. What a beautiful drawing you have of it here, mamma!

MRS. LESLIE.

I am glad to find you recognise it; but the martyrs' memorial, at the northern extremity of the churchyard of St. Mary Magdalene, was not erected to point out the *place*, but to record the *memory* of their sufferings. The exact spot where their martyrdom took place is not positively known, but is supposed to have been in the town ditch, opposite to Balliol College, where the houses in Broad Street now stand.

HERBERT.

One would have thought that the papists might have let poor old Bishop Latimer end his days in peace, at least! He was eighty years old when he was brought to the stake, and therefore would not have been likely to have spread his opinions very far.

MRS. LESLIE.

There is no doubt that the cause of popery lost much more than it gained by the martyrdom of those zealous champions for the truth. The memorable prophecy of the noble-minded Latimer has been abundantly fulfilled. You know, as he was being bound to the stake, he addressed Ridley, who was already fastened to the other side, in these remarkable words: "Be of good comfort, Master Ridley, and play the man; we shall this day light such a candle, by God's grace, in England, as I trust shall never be put out." And it never has been put out!

WILLIE.

Was Cranmer burnt at the same time as Latimer and Ridley?

MRS. LESLIE.

No. He remained in prison five months longer, and then was induced, through fear of death, to sign a paper, in which he agreed to give up his protestant opinions.

WILLIE.

But that was not right, mamma!

MRS. LESLIE.

No, my dear; and it shows us how the best of men may do wrong, unless they depend continually on Divine help. Cranmer, however, very soon repented of his error, and met death with a martyr's fortitude, on the same spot where Latimer and Ridley had before.

WILLIE.

How very glad I am that our queen is not a Roman Catholic!

MRS. LESLIE.

Indeed we have all great reason to be so, Willie; and also to

be thankful for that good law which provides, that no papist can now occupy the throne of England. But it is time we turned our attention to the present state of Oxford. I dare say Herbert can tell us the number and names of its colleges.

HERBERT.

Oxford, "the chief seat of learning in England," has nineteen colleges. Their names are:—

Merton College	Lincoln College	Trinity College
University College	All Souls' College	St. John's College
Balliol College	Magdalen College	Jesus College
Exeter College	Brazenose College	Wadham College
Oriel College	Corpus Christi College	Pembroke College
Queen's College	Christ's Church College*	Worcester College.
New College		

Among the public institutions of Oxford there are, in addition to the colleges, five halls for the reception and education of students; the Bodleian Library, founded by Sir Thomas Bodley, and said to contain the most valuable collection of books and manuscripts in Europe; the Radcliffe Library, one of the finest works of architecture in Oxford; the Ashmolean Museum, and the Observatory.

MRS. LESLIE.

I suppose you know the place this drawing represents, Katie?

KATE.

To be sure I do, mamma, it is the Radcliffe Library. I should know that noble-looking building anywhere! And there I see is a sketch of the magnificent "Broad Walk." Altogether, I think, Oxford is a very charming place!

MRS. LESLIE.

You are right. It is as a whole that Oxford is seen to such advantage. For the number and grandeur of its towers, domes, pinnacles, spires, and turrets, it is unsurpassed by any city in

* Founded by Cardinal Wolsey. This is the largest and most magnificent of all the colleges.

England; and the pleasant streams which intersect, and fertile meadows which surround it, combine to render it as picturesque as it is noble and magnificent.

Although Banbury is the next place of importance in this county in regard to population, I think we will first mention Woodstock; it is but a pleasant eight miles' drive from Oxford; and visitors to the University seldom fail to be attracted thither by the far-famed magnificence of Blenheim, the seat of the Duke of Marlborough, which is situated in close proximity to that town.

MARION.

Blenheim, I find, was presented to John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough, in Queen Anne's reign, for important services rendered to his country, in the contest against the French and Bavarians. The manor of Woodstock was granted to him by his sovereign, and 500,000*l.* was voted by parliament for the erection of the palace.

KATE.

Blenheim does not seem to be an English name.

MRS. LESLIE.

It was the name of a small village on the banks of the Danube, near where the engagement took place in which the Duke of Marlborough was so greatly signalised. The palace and park at Woodstock was named after it, in commemoration of that distinguished victory.

WILLIE.

As I know you have been to Woodstock, mamma, I hope you are going to tell us all about Blenheim Palace.

MRS. LESLIE.

It would occupy much more time than we have to spare this morning, Willie, to tell you even half I could remember about that magnificent domain. You will very likely have the pleasure of going over it yourself, when we next pay a visit to Oxford.

KATE.

But you must tell us, dear mamma, whether there are any traces of Fair Rosamond's bower, and the labyrinth leading to it, through

which Queen Eleanor was guided by a web of silk when she went to poison her rival.

MRS. LESLIE.

The maze or labyrinth which seems to have given rise to the legend is still to be seen, and I assure you, you would find it no easy matter to get to the end of its intricate windings; but the story of Queen Eleanor poisoning Fair Rosamond is thought to be wholly without foundation.

WILLIE.

I can tell you what the town of Woodstock is noted for, mamma.

MRS. LESLIE.

Well then, Willie.

WILLIE.

For gloves. Miss Selby told me that gloves have been made at Woodstock, ever since the time of Queen Elizabeth, who had a pair presented to her on one of her visits to the place.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yea, the manufacture of gloves is the principal branch of industry carried on at Woodstock. The population is about 8000, of which a very large number are employed in glove making.

But now let us notice Banbury. I am sure you can also tell us what Banbury is famed for, Willie.

WILLIE.

For cakes and cheese.

HERBERT.

It is noticed in history for the celebrated "battle of Banbury," fought between the Yorkists and Lancastrians. The engagement was a most determined one, the Yorkists were completely routed, and Edward the Fourth made prisoner.

WILLIE.

Is Banbury a large place, mamma? I mean does it contain a great number of inhabitants?

MRS. LESLIE.

Its population is about 9000.

HERBERT.

I suppose Witney, of blanket fame, is our next town, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

If you please.

KATE.

What curious things we sometimes meet with in preparing for these conversations! I was searching for information, as to how long blankets had been made in England, and I not only found that they were first made in the reign of Edward the Third, but that they were actually named after their inventor — Thomas Blanket.

WILLIE.

Why, that is one of the funniest things we have heard of! I am sure now I shall always feel inclined to call a blanket a *Thomas* blanket. Sha'n't you, Herbert?

HERBERT.

Perhaps I may, now you have put such a ludicrous idea into my head, you merry little rogue! But now be serious, while Katie tells us in what part of England this famous Thomas Blanket first carried on his useful manufacture.

KATE.

At Bristol. He is said to have begun, quite in a small way, with a loom in his own house; his neighbours seeing what comfortable things he made, soon followed his example, and set up looms in theirs; and thus the blanket manufacture became established in England.

Witney, I suppose, dates its importance as a blanket town from the reign of Queen Anne, from whom it received a charter of incorporation. It is said at that time 150 looms were kept at work, 1000 packs of wool used weekly, and that the manufacture afforded employment to 3000 persons. Do you know, mamma, what is the present state of the trade?

MRS. LESLIE.

I am informed by one of the principal manufacturers, that it has been in a very prosperous condition for the last few years, owing

to the great improvements in the manufacture. The number of looms employed at the present time is about 150, which consume 140 packs of wool per week, and employ about 700 persons. The statement of 1000 packs of wool being consumed by 150 looms he believes to be incorrect, as a loom, he tells me, never consumes more than a pack of wool per week.

MARION.

I suppose the use of machinery accounts for the fewer number of hands now required for each loom?

MRS. LESLIE.

You are right. Until the last forty years the spinning was all done by hand, by which employment was afforded to all the neighbouring villages. Machinery now in a great measure supplies the place of manual labour.

MARION.

But I am surprised that a greater number of looms are not kept at work. It appears that the manufacture has not at all increased during the last 150 years.

MRS. LESLIE.

The charter, or exclusive privilege of manufacture has long ceased to exist, and the manufacture being carried to other places accounts for the want of increase in the trade at Witney. That town, however, still maintains its reputation for the excellency of its manufactures. It has a population of above 3000. Can you mention any other towns in this county, Katie?

KATE.

Chipping-Norton, where the manufacture of woollen horse-cloths is carried on, and which town contains nearly 4000 inhabitants. Henley-on-Thames, a place of great antiquity, but now built in a handsome modern style, with about the same amount of population as Chipping-Norton; and Bicester, Bampton, and Burford, quiet and unimportant country towns.

MARION.

We have noticed very few remains of antiquity in this county.

MRS. LESLIE.

And yet the names of some of its little towns and villages bear testimony to its Roman occupation.

MARION.

Oh, yes! Bicester, Dorchester, and Alchester show, by their terminations, that they were fortified places at the time of the Saxon invasion.

MRS. LESLIE.

Nor is there wanting other evidence to prove that the conquering Romans possessed this county. It was crossed by several Roman roads; and remains of Roman art have frequently been found. The agricultural labourer has often turned up with his plough foundations of buildings, coins, and Roman bricks, and, in his simplicity, good man! greatly wondered how learned gentlemen could take an interest in such *bits of rubbish*.

HERBERT.

I understand the most curious relic of antiquity in this county is the Rollrich stones, about three miles from Chipping-Norton. Archæologists are somewhat divided in opinion as to its origin, but it is generally believed that the stones, originally sixty in number, were taken in ancient times from a neighbouring quarry, and placed in their present situation.

KATE.

Do you know in what form they are placed?

HERBERT.

They originally formed a ring, though not exactly circular. At the present time, I believe, but twenty-four stones remain.

MARION.

I wonder if it could have been a druidical temple.

MRS. LESLIE.

Such I think is the most probable conjecture; but while the learned in such matters are in doubt, we must not expect to arrive at any satisfactory conclusion.

CONVERSATION XVII.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

SUBJECTS : — Boundaries. — Size. — Ancient Inhabitants. — Subjugation by Romans. — Chiltern Hills. — Industrial Resources. — Buckingham. — Aylesbury. — Manufacture of Lace. — Ancient Tenure of Manor. — John Hampden. — Ship-Money. — Hampden's Death. — Noble Conduct of Charles the First. — Chief Rivers of County. — High Wycombe. — Great Marlow. — Eton. — Eton Montem. — Burnham Beeches. — Poet Gray. — Olney. — Newport Pagnell. — Stony Stratford.

"I HOPE, Herbert, that you have been more successful than Marion and myself in your research into Buckinghamshire," exclaimed Kate Leslie, as her brother joined the little party assembled for conversation on that county. "I cannot think what we shall find to occupy our time and attention this morning, for there are no mines belonging to it, no manufactures of importance, no natural curiosities (at least that I can find), no fine cities, no feudal castles, and scarcely any antiquities, or interesting historical notices."

"A most lamentable catalogue of nonentities, upon my word, Katie!" he laughingly returned, "but if there really are none of those objects of interest, which you have named, of course we cannot speak of them. You know, as mamma once told us, we must take each county as we find it, whether it possess much or little interest. I expect, however, that we shall find something worthy of our notice even in Buckinghamshire."

"I suppose, at least, the county is not destitute of boundaries,

Katie," added Mrs. Leslie, "therefore you may as well mention them at once."

KATE.

Buckinghamshire, an inland county of England, is bounded on the north by Northamptonshire; on the east by Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Middlesex; on the south by Berkshire, and a small part of Surrey; and on the west by Oxfordshire.

MARION.

It is a very irregularly-shaped county, and varies exceedingly in length and breadth. Its greatest length is about fifty-three miles, and its breadth, at the widest part, twenty-seven miles.

HERBERT.

I find that antiquaries have generally supposed that at the time of the Roman invasion, the inhabitants of this county were the subjects of Cassivelaunus, the ancient British chief, who so greatly distinguished himself in heading the Britons against Julius Cæsar. During the further inroads of the Emperor Claudius, it is supposed to have been a scene of conflict between the Romans and Britons, Aulus Plautius; the Roman general, it is said, having gained his first victory on the banks of the Ouse, near Buckingham.

On the subjection of the district by the Romans, it was included in the division called Flavia Cæsariensis, and during the Saxon Heptarchy it formed part of the kingdom of Mercia.

MARION.

The Chiltern Hills are the principal elevations in this county. They are well wooded and abound in beech trees.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, the whole of the district occupied by the Chiltern hills is supposed to have been once an immense forest; and all the south-east part of this county was formerly so thickly wooded as to be almost impassable, and to have afforded shelter and security to the numerous hordes of robbers and freebooters, whose lawless depredations made them the dread and terror of the country. On this account large quantities of the beech timber were cut

down, by the order of Leofstane, an Abbot of St. Alban's. Now, Willie, can you tell us what are the principal occupations of the labouring classes of Buckinghamshire, and the name of the county town.

WILLIE.

The men are chiefly employed in agriculture, and the women in making lace. Buckingham is the county town, on the river Ouse.

MARION.

Is not Aylesbury more frequently considered the principal town, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

There is no doubt that Buckingham was originally the place of most importance in the county, as it gave the name to it. It was the royal residence of Edward the Elder, who fortified it against the attacks of the Danes. In the reign of Edward the Third its prosperity was further increased, by its being made a mart for wool; but after that period it seems to have declined; the woollen trade was removed to Calais, the assizes held at Aylesbury, and towards the end of the reign of Henry the Eighth, we find it included in a list of "decayed towns and cities," for which, relief by act of parliament was petitioned. In 1725, Buckingham suffered still further by a fire, which destroyed more than one-third of the town.

WILLIE.

Which town has the most inhabitants now, mamma, Buckingham or Aylesbury?

MRS. LESLIE.

The population of Buckingham is about 8000, that of Aylesbury about 6000.

WILLIE.

Then I am sure, mamma, that Buckingham ought to be considered the principal town!

MRS. LESLIE.

Very well, Willie. After your important decision we will let the matter rest!

KATE.

I suppose the assizes are still held at Aylesbury?

MRS. LESLIE.

I should have told you that the summer assizes were restored to Buckingham in the reign of George the Second, principally by the interest of Lord Cobham, who obtained an act of Parliament for that purpose. But winter and summer assizes are now both held at Aylesbury.

HERBERT.

I suppose the use of machinery has been applied to lace-making as well as to other manufactures, and has interfered in some measure with the occupation of the poor females of Buckingham.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, the manufacture of pillow lace has been in a great degree superseded by that made by machinery at Nottingham, and other places; but still lace-making affords employment, to some extent, for the females of this county. At Buckingham, Aylesbury, and the surrounding villages, more especially those lying to the south of the latter town, the cottager may still be seen with her lace pillow, bobbins, thread, and other requisites, earning an honest though scanty pittance, without the aid of machinery or steam. But now, what can you tell me of the situation and history of Aylesbury?

MARION.

It is a large market town, situated in a fertile valley called the Vale of Aylesbury. It was originally a British town, but became subject to the West Saxons in the year 571. By them it was called Æglesberg.

HERBERT.

The manor of Aylesbury was formerly held upon a very singular tenure. It was made a royal manor in the reign of William the Conqueror, and granted upon condition of the tenant's finding "litter or straw for the king's bedchamber three times a year, if he came that way so often, and providing him with three eels in winter, and three green geese in summer."

KATE.

Well! those were very moderate demands at any rate.

MRS. LESLIE.

There is one spot in the hundred of Aylesbury possessing peculiar interest from its historical associations. I allude to Hampden House, formerly the residence of the distinguished patriot whose name it bears.

KATE.

Do you mean John Hampden, who opposed the payment of ship-money in the reign of Charles the First, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

The same, my dear. I suppose, however, as you are all such determined royalists, you will scarcely wish to hear of the virtues of one who so strenuously opposed the king.

MARION.

Oh! pray mamma, give us credit for having candour enough to be willing to hear both sides of a question!

MRS. LESLIE.

As regards the question of ship-money, I have little more to tell than what you are already acquainted with. You know it was a tax levied by the king for the alleged purpose of maintaining the navy, and rendering it more efficient than it had formerly been, and that, being considered an illegal impost, it caused great dissatisfaction throughout the country.

HERBERT.

I cannot see why there should have been such opposition to it. The object for which it was raised was surely an important one.

MRS. LESLIE.

Those who were most disposed to view the king's actions in a favourable light, have been constrained to admit that the real object for which the tax was levied, was to furnish him with supplies which might be used for any purpose, and increased to

any amount. The opposition further arose from the king's having taken upon himself to levy it upon his own authority. Indeed, Charles's principal error appears to have been the entertaining too high an opinion of his own prerogative, and being determined to govern without the aid of parliament.

HERBERT.

We cannot wonder at that, I think, when we remember what opposition the parliament showed towards him from the very commencement of his reign.

MRS. LESLIE.

There is much truth in your observation; and indeed I believe that those most opposed to the king are compelled to acknowledge that the nation was so rife for rebellion, that the most wise and prudent monarch would have found it no easy matter to maintain his position on the throne.

KATE.

I hope you are going to tell us something more about John Hampden, mamma.

MRS. LESLIE.

When the ship-money was being raised, Hampden, who had previously been in parliament, was living in retirement at Hampden House, and on being called upon for 20*l.*, at which amount some land belonging to him had been assessed, he positively refused to pay it. A trial followed, in which the case was decided against him by the judges, but the voice of the people was entirely in his favour. From that time he received the title of the patriot Hampden.

MARION.

I think I have read that Hampden was a relative of Cromwell, and that he was one of the first who took up arms against the king.

MRS. LESLIE.

Cromwell and he were cousins. Hampden accepted the command of a regiment in the army of the parliamentarians, and was mortally wounded in a skirmish at Chalgrove field, near

Oxford, June 18th, 1643. Whatever may be the opinion of men as to his political career, I believe all who knew him bore testimony to the worth of his private character. His pure morality, conscientiousness and humanity, were as strikingly exemplified as his indomitable courage and perseverance. A few sentences breathed by him in his dying moments, have been preserved, and are sufficient to show the noble and patriotic spirit which even then sustained him.

KATE.

I should like to hear them, mamma.

MRS. LESLIE.

On receiving the wound which terminated fatally, he succeeded in reaching Thame, a small town about thirteen miles from Oxford, where he was received into the house of one Ezekiel Brown, under whose roof he expired, six days after the injury was inflicted. His dying words were: "O Lord God of Hosts, great is Thy mercy, just and holy are Thy dealings unto we sinful men. Save me, O Lord, if it be Thy good will, from the jaws of death. Pardon my manifold transgressions. O Lord, save my bleeding country; have these realms in Thy especial keeping. Confound and level in the dust those who would rob the people of their liberty and lawful prerogative. Let the king see his error, and turn the hearts of his wicked counsellors from the malice and wickedness of their designs. Lord Jesu, receive my soul!"

KATE.

Really, I think he must have been a good man, though he did take up arms against the king.

MRS. LESLIE.

Before we quite leave the memory of John Hampden, I must in candour tell you of a circumstance connected with his last days, in which one of the amiable traits of the unfortunate Charles is exhibited in a strong light. Of course the death of Hampden was a thing much to be desired by the royalists, as giving a severe blow to the parliamentary cause; yet, it is related, that when the

king heard of his danger, he testified his respect for his character by sending his own physician to attend him.

HERBERT.

Well done! magnanimous, noble-hearted Charles! Why, such an action as that, mamma, ought alone to have saved him from his ignominious death; and I am sure would have done it, too, if the nation had possessed a spark of generous or grateful feeling.

MRS. LESLIE.

In reviewing the history of the past, I fear, my dear boy, you will too often find policy and expediency have been the most powerful terms in the political world's vocabulary.

KATE.

Is Hampden House still in existence, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

It is, and occupied by Donald Cameron, Esq., the husband of Lady Veil, sister of the late Earl of Buckinghamshire. But we must now conclude our reminiscences of Aylesbury, and proceed to notice the rivers of Buckinghamshire.

WILLIE.

The principal rivers of Buckinghamshire are the Thames, the Coln, the Thame, and the Ouse.

MARION.

High Wycombe, or Chipping Wycombe, though not the largest, is described as the most handsome town of this county. It is a place of great antiquity, and is supposed by some antiquaries to have been the site of a Roman villa. The term Chipping is considered a proof of its having been in the possession of the Saxons, as it is of Saxon derivation, and denotes a mart. The manufacture of paper is carried on to some extent.

MRS. LESLIE.

Pillow-lace making still affords some employment to the females of this town, although the trade has considerably fallen off, owing to the prevalence of machinery. The population at the last census was about 7000.

KATE.

Great Marlow, or Chipping Marlow, is another town of Buckinghamshire. It is very pleasantly situated on the banks of the Thames, and contains between 6000 and 7000 inhabitants.

HERBERT.

Eton, celebrated for its public school, is also in this county.

KATE.

I thought Eton was in Berkshire,

HERBERT.

I do not wonder at it, as it is situated so close to Windsor, that it has quite the appearance of belonging to that town. It is on the north side of the Thames, and Windsor on the south, and the bridge which connects them is the only interruption to the line of houses.

MARION.

Do you know in whose reign Eton College was erected, Herbert?

HERBERT.

In the reign of Henry the Sixth.

KATE.

Don't you remember how much pleased we were, Marion, with Miss Edgeworth's account of Eton Montem?

MARION.

Yes; but I remember also hearing papa say, that it bore scarcely any resemblance to the real Montem; and was much more like a clever fiction, than a description of facts.

WILLIE.

What was Eton Montem, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

A curious custom which used to take place once every three years. On Whit Tuesday, all the pupils of the college, arrayed in fancy dresses, marched in procession to Salt Hill, about two miles

distant, in order to collect money from the passers-by. The young gentlemen were called salt-bearers, and their captain, the best scholar in the college, used to recite something he had learned for the occasion. They did not allow any one to pass without giving a donation, and they generally collected several hundred pounds.

WILLIE.

And did they keep the money for themselves ?

MRS. LESLIE.

It was given to their captain, to enable him to pursue his studies at one of the universities. The montem has been discontinued since 1847.

HERBERT.

I should think the Etonians did not much relish giving up their ancient privilege. It must have been capital fun !

MRS. LESLIE.

Its abolition was deemed absolutely necessary, from several causes ; one of which was the large influx of visitors (many of the worst character), which the railway brought to the neighbourhood of Eton, at the time of its celebration. It is usual now every three years to issue numerous invitations to old Etonians, so that the only real good resulting from montem (a periodical assemblage of Etonians in the place of their education) is still preserved.

KATE.

But the captain loses the money which used to defray his expenses at the university ?

MRS. LESLIE.

I have been informed by one of the masters of the college, that the money collected in such a way was a decided injury rather than a benefit. But we must proceed. A pleasant walk from Eton brings the traveller to one of the most lovely secluded districts of England, and one, too, which is full of interesting associations. I allude to Burnham Beeches, and the picturesque village of Stoke. It is believed that there is no spot in England in which wild

forest scenery is seen to such advantage as in the secluded dell called Burnham Beeches.

MARION.

I think the poet Gray resided at Stoke, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

He did. The churchyard of that little village was the scene of his well-known elegy, and his remains were interred among "The rude forefathers of the hamlet," in that same quiet resting-place which his verse has immortalised. The old manor-house of Stoke was the scene of Gray's "Long Story," a poem in a very different vein to his pensive "Elegy," and which has served to mark the versatility of his genius.

HERBERT.

I met with another recollection of the old manor-house of Stoke. It was there that Lord Chief Justice Coke magnificently entertained Queen Elizabeth, and presented her with jewels to the value of 1000*l*.

MRS. LESLIE.

Before we quite leave this neighbourhood, we must mention Slough, for many years the residence of the eminent astronomer Sir William Herschel. It was in the retirement of that village that he constructed his celebrated reflecting telescope. Slough is now principally distinguished for its railway-station, the chief interest of which is derived from its being much frequented by the royal family and court, on their route to and from Windsor Castle. Now, Katie, are there any other places you wish to notice in this county?

KATE.

Olney, Newport Pagnell, and Stony Stratford, are small towns situated on the banks of the Ouse. The inhabitants derive their chief support from agriculture and lace-making. Newport Pagnell was formerly greatly celebrated for its lace, which was considered little inferior to that of Flanders. The residence of the poet Cowper was near Olney, I believe?

MRS. LESLIE.

You are right. The bridge over the Ouse at that place is supposed to be the one to which he alludes in the lines:—

“Hark! 'tis the twanging horn o'er yonder bridge,
That with its wearisome but needful length,
Bestrides the wintry flood.”

HERBERT.

Stony Stratford is one of the places where Edward the First erected a cross in memory of the corpse of his queen resting there on its way from Nottinghamshire to Westminster Abbey for interment. The cross was destroyed during the civil wars.

MRS. LESLIE.

I think, my dear children, we seem all to have arrived at the end of our notes on Buckinghamshire. Notwithstanding the fears that were entertained, we have found much interesting information connected with that county which could only be arrived at by diligent research. Next week your attention will be directed to Bedfordshire, and though you may find it a county rather deficient in interest, I doubt not your inquiries will result in a larger amount of information than you at present possess.

CONVERSATION XVIII.

BEDFORDSHIRE.

SUBJECTS:— Bedford Level.— Boundaries of County.— Size.— Chief Rivers.— Ancient Inhabitants.— Conquest by Romans.— Depredations of Danes.— Ancient Name of County Town.— Destruction of Bedford Castle.— Clever Expedient.— John Bunyan.— “Pilgrim’s Progress.”— Present Condition of Bedford.— Extensive Charities.— Extraordinary Increase in Value of Ancient Benefaction.— Lace-making.— Luton.— Straw Plait Manufacture.— Leighton Buzzard.— Manufactures.— Dunstable.— Derivation of Name.— Beautiful Church.— Celebrated Manufactures.— Biggleswade.— Woburn.— Ampthill.

“PRAY, mamma, can you tell me what is meant by the ‘Bedford Level?’” exclaimed Kate Leslie, looking up from a book she had been poring over for some time with an increasingly perplexed expression of countenance. “When I told papa yesterday that Bedfordshire was the county we were engaged upon, he said he should be glad if I would give him some particulars respecting the Bedford Level, but I cannot find the least mention of it in any account I have of Bedfordshire.”

MRS. LESLIE.

Most likely not, for I believe no part of the district so called extends into that county.

KATE.

Then how can it be called the Bedford Level, mamma? I thought, of course, it must be in Bedfordshire.

MRS. LESLIE.

Your papa evidently intended to puzzle you, Katie; and as you have taken some pains in endeavouring to answer his inquiry, I

suppose I must give you the desired information; although in so doing, we shall be wandering a little from the county under consideration. The Bedford Level is a large tract of flat, fenny land, extending into Northamptonshire, Huntingdonshire, Cambridgeshire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. This district, which is about sixty miles in length, and forty in breadth, and bounded on the north-east by the German Ocean, was at one time an almost useless morass or marsh, the surface of which was covered with stagnant water; but of late years, by an improved system of draining, embanking, and other processes, it has been brought under cultivation. The first attempt to drain these fens, attended with anything like success, was made in the reign of Charles the First, by Francis Earl of Bedford, and out of compliment to him the district so reclaimed was named the Bedford Level.

KATE.

Oh! thank you, mamma; I now see the importance of knowing the origin of a name. But was all that extensive tract of land without any houses or inhabitants?

MRS. LESLIE.

No; houses and even villages were scattered among the fens, but the inhabitants lived in a very isolated and wretched state, their only means of intercourse with each other being by the aid of boats; and even such a mode of transit was not always available, in consequence of the dirt and slime which choked up the putrid waters. But we must not linger on the subject this morning; there are some interesting conjectures respecting the original state of the Bedford Level, to which I may refer when we come to notice the counties in which it is included. It is now quite time for Willie to point out the boundaries of Bedfordshire.

WILLIE.

It is bounded on the north by Huntingdonshire and Northamptonshire; on the west by Buckinghamshire; on the south by Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire; and on the east by Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire.

MARION.

The length of Bedfordshire is about thirty-six miles, and its breadth twenty-two miles. The Chiltern hills extend into this county, and are known by the name of the Dunstable and Luton downs.

MRS. LESLIE.

Very good. Now, Willie, tell us the chief rivers of the county.

WILLIE.

The Ouse, the Ivel, the Lea, and the Ousel.

HERBERT.

It is thought that at the time of the Roman invasion, this county was inhabited by the same British tribe which we noticed last week. The people were termed Cassii by the invaders, and were mentioned by Cæsar among those he conquered on his second expedition to the island. In the Roman division of England this district was included in the province of Flavia Cæsariensis, and during the Saxon heptarchy formed part of the kingdom of Mercia.

WILLIE.

I cannot help feeling sorry for the poor Britons, when we find in every place we come to how they were conquered by the Romans. It must have been very hard to have to give their country up to strangers; I know I would not have done so without fighting hard for it!

HERBERT.

Well done, my little patriot brother! I like your spirit, and I assure you the ancient Britons felt very much as you do, and *did not* give up either their country or themselves without a desperate struggle. But you know the Romans were very great friends to them after all. Think how many useful arts they introduced! I wonder what would have been the state of Britain now if it had been left to its native barbarism.

MARION.

In later times this county seems to have suffered greatly from the incursions of the Danes. In 1010 they destroyed Bedford,

the county town, by fire, but it was rebuilt by Edward the Elder, the son and successor of Alfred the Great.

HERBERT.

The Saxon name was Bedicanford, which signifies a fortress on a river, I believe.

MRS. LESLIE.

You are right. Can you tell us, Willie, on what river this ancient town is situated?

WILLIE.

On the Ouse, mamma.

MARION.

In an account of Bedford I met with the other day, there was a short notice of its ancient castle, which was said to have been of amazing strength and thickness, although no portion of it now exists.

MRS. LESLIE.

Some of the incidents connected with the destruction of this famous castle will perhaps be interesting to you. In the contest between King John and the barons, it was garrisoned against the king, but soon surrendered to the royal favourite, Faukes de Brent, on whom it was afterwards bestowed for his important services. Naturally of a proud ambitious spirit, De Brent was so elated by success, and so confident in the power which had been given him, that his insolence and arrogance to his less influential neighbours knew no bounds. Outrage upon outrage was committed, and he even presumed so far upon his power as to pull down the collegiate church of St. Paul's for the purpose of strengthening and repairing his castle.

HERBERT.

I should think such sacrilegious conduct excited the indignation of the clergy.

MRS. LESLIE.

Not only the clergy, but all classes of the community were highly incensed by the audacity of the haughty knight; and at length Henry the Third, who had succeeded his father John upon the throne, marched to Bedford, attended by Archbishop Langton and

the principal nobles of the realm, for the purpose of bringing him to punishment.

KATE.

And how did they punish him, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

By besieging his stupendous castle, and compelling it to surrender after a determined resistance of sixty days. De Brent escaped with life, but was deprived of his barony, and had the mortification of seeing his mighty castle demolished by order of the king.

MARION.

I wonder how such a powerful fortress came to surrender.

MRS. LESLIE.

The success of the besiegers has generally been ascribed to the ingenious invention of a lofty wooden castle, higher than the walls of the stronghold they attacked, by means of which they were enabled to adopt such a keen *surveillance* over all that passed within, as effectually to baffle all its methods of defence.

HERBERT.

Why that was a stratagem worthy of later times!

MRS. LESLIE.

It was a clever expedient, certainly, and shows that our ancestors must have been tolerably good tacticians in the deadly art of war. But we will now turn to a more pleasing reminiscence of the town of Bedford, and mention a faithful soldier and servant of the "Prince of Peace." Of course you all know I mean good, quaint John Bunyan.

WILLIE.

Oh! please, dear mamma, to tell us all you can remember of the early life of the good man who wrote that dear old "Pilgrim's Progress."

MRS. LESLIE.

The early life of Bunyan would be very far from instructive to you, Willie, unless so far as it might serve to warn you of the evil of a sinful course of conduct, for his youth was spent in idle and vicious

practices. He was the son of a tinker, and was born in 1628, at the village of Elstow, about two miles from Bedford. As he grew up, he followed his father's occupation, and for several years led a wandering kind of life; at length he entered the army, and served on the side of the parliament during the civil wars. While engaged in the dangerous occupation of a soldier, God was pleased to lead him to reflection and repentance, and he afterwards became a deeply pious man, and an eminent preacher of the gospel.

KATE.

I remember Bunyan wrote the "Pilgrim's Progress" in prison, but I forget for what cause he was in confinement.

MRS. LESLIE.

We have before spoken of the corrupt state of the Established Church at that period, which caused such holy men as Bunyan, Baxter, and many others called the Puritan divines, to leave it, and seek to worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences. In those days the laws were very severe against dissent, and Bunyan, having infringed them, was sentenced to transportation. The sentence, however, was not executed, but he was kept a prisoner for twelve years in Bedford Gaol, during which time, as you correctly state, he wrote his incomparable "Pilgrim's Progress."

MARION.

I have read that he used to preach to the people in the streets from his prison windows, and that notwithstanding the severity of the laws, he never failed to attract a crowded audience.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; his addresses were so adapted to the understanding, and appealed so powerfully to the conscience, that his popularity was almost unbounded among the common people. For many years there was a prejudice against his writings in the minds of the learned, but that has happily long since passed away, and he is now universally acknowledged to have been no less distinguished for genius than for piety. His inimitable allegory, the "Pilgrim's Progress," has, I believe, been translated into a greater number of languages than any other book except the sacred Scriptures.

HERBERT.

I wonder whether Bedford possesses any memento of its great divine?

MRS. LESLIE.

The chapel in Mill-Street, in which he used to preach, is still called "Bunyan Meeting," and his old chair is preserved in the vestry with the greatest care. But it is time you gave me some account of the general state of Bedford at the present time.

HERBERT.

It is a large and improving town, containing many handsome public buildings, but it seems to be more distinguished for the number and extent of its charities, than for anything beside. Its principal benefactor was Sir William Harpur, an Alderman of London, who lived in the reign of Edward the Sixth, and yet it appears that his principal gift only consisted of thirteen acres of meadow-land, with which he endowed a school for the instruction of the children of the town in "grammar and good manners."

MRS. LESLIE.

We could scarcely have a more striking exemplification of the increase in the value of property than is afforded by that benefaction. Little did the worthy alderman imagine what a vast bequest he was making to his favourite town. These same thirteen acres of meadow-land, of which the yearly value was then but 40*l.*, now produce an annual income of more than 13,000*l.*

MARION.

But, dear mamma, can that be possible?

MRS. LESLIE.

It is not only possible, but strictly true, and your surprise will in some measure cease, when I tell you that the meadows were situated in the parish of St. Andrew, Holborn, and are now known as Lamb's Conduit-Street, Bedford Row, and the streets adjacent, the annual rental derived from which amounts to the sum I name. That vast income is now appropriated to educational purposes, marriage portions, apprentice fees, the support of almshouses, &c.

KATE.

The inhabitants of Bedford must be in a very favourable position, compared with those of many other places, I should think.

MRS. LESLIE.

You are right. The entire education of the town is provided for, besides valuable assistance in after life being rendered to the deserving poor. To the original free school, founded by Sir William Harpur, have been added a grammar-school, commercial, preparatory, national, girls', and infant-schools. A handsome range of school buildings, in the Tudor style of architecture, has been erected at a cost of more than 25,000*l*.

WILLIE.

Lace-making is carried on at Bedford, is it not, mamma ?

MRS. LESLIE.

It is, Willie; and forms the principal occupation of the women and children of the town and neighbourhood. Now, Herbert, tell us the amount of population, and then we will turn our attention to Luton, Dunstable, and some other towns of Bedfordshire.

HERBERT.

Bedford contains about 12,000 inhabitants.

KATE.

Luton is described as a neat, clean-looking town, pleasantly situated between two hills near to the source of the river Lea. Its name is said to be derived from the river, which in ancient British was *Luh*. It is principally celebrated for the straw-plait manufacture, in which most of the females are engaged. The population of Luton is upwards of 10,000.

HERBERT.

Leighton-Buzzard, on the Ousel, containing nearly 7000 inhabitants, ranks next in point of population. Here also the manufacture of lace and straw-plait is carried on.

MARION.

Dunstable is a town of great antiquity, having been a British settlement before the Roman invasion, and afterwards an im-

portant Roman station. Its present name is said to be of comparatively recent date, and to be derived from the chief of a banditti, named Dunn or Dunning, who carried on his lawless depredations in that neighbourhood, in the reign of Henry the First.

MRS. LESLIE.

There are various opinions as to the derivation of the name, but your account of the existence of a numerous horde of robbers infesting the spot at the time you speak of, is at least correct. Henry the First, to get rid of this nuisance, commanded the woods to be cut down, and "having built a royal mansion for himself, issued a proclamation, inviting his subjects to come and settle near him at Dunstable, offering them lands at a very small rent, and various liberties and privileges." By such means the town, which had been destroyed by the Danes, was restored.

HERBERT.

Dunstable was afterwards greatly celebrated for its priory, some portions of which, I think, still exist.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; the parish church contains some beautiful specimens of architecture, the remains of the ancient priory. The west front, which is constructed of circular and pointed arches, and elaborately ornamented, is considered "one of our great national curiosities." Now, Kate, can you tell us the population of Dunstable, and for what branch of industry it is chiefly celebrated?

KATE.

Its population is nearly 4000, and it is noted for the manufacture of straw-plait, in which it is said to be unrivalled by any place in the world.

MARION.

I thought Luton was more famous than Dunstable for the straw-plait manufacture.

MRS. LESLIE.

Luton is as much celebrated for the quantity of straw hats and bonnets made there, as Dunstable is for the quality of its manufacture. The commoner and cheaper goods are made in vast quantities at Luton, while Dunstable excels all other places in the

superiority of its workmanship. Both towns are in a very flourishing state. Your account of the population, both of Luton and Dunstable, Katie, falls necessarily far short of the reality, taken as it is from the census tables of 1851. A correspondent informs me, that Dunstable has doubled the number of its inhabitants during the last eight years, and that Luton has added many thousands to its population in the same period.

MARION.

I wonder who invented the use of plaited straw for hats and bonnets, or, indeed, how long hats and bonnets have been worn at all? I remember reading, that at one time the only coverings for the head, either for men or women, were closely knitted woollen caps.

MRS. LESLIE.

Hats, but certainly not straw hats, were first made in England by some Spaniards, at the commencement of the 16th century. I do not remember ever to have heard who introduced the use of straw for that purpose, but it has certainly been in use upwards of a century; as in a work I was referring to this morning, published in 1744, Luton is mentioned as having "a good manufacture of straw hats." Have you any other places in Bedfordshire to mention, Kate?

KATE.

The towns we have not noticed are Biggleswade, on the river Ivel, where the manufacture of thread-lace and edging is carried on; Woburn, celebrated for its beautiful abbey and park, the seat of the Duke of Bedford; Ampthill, the residence of Catharine of Arragon, after her divorce from Henry the Eighth, and Potton, an unimportant market-town.

MRS. LESLIE.

By the summary manner in which you have disposed of those little towns, I presume you mean me to understand that you have nothing more to say about them; and as I believe we have now mentioned the most important places, and most interesting reminiscences of Bedfordshire, it only remains for me to tell you that our next county will be Huntingdon.

CONVERSATION XIX.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE.

SUBJECTS:—Bedford Level.—Ancient State.—Waste Land reclaimed.—Earl of Bedford.—Nefarious Action of Charles the First.—Opposition of Cromwell.—Boundaries of County.—Size.—Derivation of Name.—Celebrated “Meres.”—Extraordinary Transformation.—“Snare of the Fowler.”—Useful Lesson to be learnt from Wild-Fowl.—Industrial Occupations of the People.—Huntingdon.—Its Antiquity.—Present State.—Oliver Cromwell.—Early Character.—Connection with Puritans.—Personal Appearance and Manner.—Military Ability.—Faithlessness of Charles the First.—Protectorate of Cromwell.—Mental Disquietude of latter Days.—Godmanchester.—Supposed Roman Station.—St. Ives.—St. Neot's.—Ramsey.—Kimbolton.—Yaxley.—Stilton.—Changes effected by Railways.

“We were all so much interested in what you told us last week of the Bedford Level, mamma,” said Katie, “that we have been quite depending on your promise to give us some further account of it; and, as Huntingdonshire is one of the counties in which it is included, we hope you will be so kind as to resume the subject this morning.”

MRS. LESLIE.

I shall have much pleasure in complying with your request, my dear children, because I always like to gratify that laudable curiosity which proceeds from a desire to acquire useful knowledge. There is every reason to believe that the district termed the Bedford Level passed through a succession of remarkable changes previous to the important and interesting one I mentioned last week. It is conjectured, that many centuries ago, even

before the soil of Britain was trodden by Roman legions, this tract of land was one immense forest; that it was, moreover, dry land, and at a level much below the present surface, and that the forest having been cut down, it became the abode of civilised man, until suddenly overwhelmed by a violent irruption.

HERBERT.

I shall be very much interested in hearing what circumstances give rise to such an opinion.

MRS. LESLIE.

The fact of its ancient wooded state is fully established by the remains of former vegetation everywhere found by excavation. Many feet below the surface trees of immense size have been discovered, cut down and lying near the trunks on which they grew, and which remained firmly rooted in the earth. We know it was the policy of the Romans, on their invasion of our island, to destroy, as far as possible, the vast forests which so extensively prevailed, and which proved such strongholds to the hardy Britons, by affording them shelter and security against the invaders; and it is a very probable conjecture that at that period this vast tract of land was laid bare. Some remains of ancient architecture, and many articles of domestic use, have also been found much below the present surface, which serve to prove that the district was subsequently inhabited.

MARION.

And what was the nature of the disaster that afterwards overwhelmed it, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Old historians speak of successive inundations of the sea, which destroyed the banks, and broke in at various places, occasioning considerable loss of life and property. To provide against the recurrence of similar disasters, embankments on a larger scale were made; but, as the waters from the surrounding hills were thus prevented from discharging themselves into the sea, the entire district became a stagnant, putrid marsh, spreading disease and death around. To the honour of science and human industry,

that worse than useless swamp now teems with waving corn-fields and abundant pasture lands, so that, in the beautiful language of Scripture, we may say, "The pastures are clothed with flocks; the valleys also are covered over with corn; they shout for joy, they also sing."

HERBERT.

It must have cost an immense sum of money to reclaim and bring under cultivation such a large tract of land.

MRS. LESLIE.

The Earl of Bedford, and other "gentleman adventurers," as they were called in the time of Charles the First, expended no less a sum than 100,000*l.* upon the work in the short space of three years; and the outlay in the improvement of the land since that period must be altogether incalculable; yet, I venture to say that the value of the land thus reclaimed has amply repaid the investment of capital.

HERBERT.

But what compensation did the earl receive for the large sum he employed, and for the important service he rendered? I suppose that large district was not his own property?

MRS. LESLIE.

I believe 18,000 acres, nearly the whole of which was under water, belonged to him; and this, no doubt, in the first place led him to contemplate so great an undertaking. As an inducement to him and his colleagues to incur the trouble and expense, it was agreed by the State that 95,000 acres of the land thus recovered should be their reward if they succeeded in the accomplishment of their design.

MARION.

I am glad to hear that the Earl of Bedford received some more substantial acknowledgment for his services than merely having the district called by his name.

MRS. LESLIE.

In giving you an account of this transaction, justice compels me to exhibit the character of your favourite Charles in a very unfavourable light. When the stipulated work was nearly accom-

plished, the king, regretting the large grant he had made, sent some officers for the ostensible purpose of examining the land, but really with the intention of finding some fault which would deprive the adventurers of their well-deserved reward, telling his messengers beforehand what report they were to make. This unjust proceeding awakened the indignation of the country, and first roused Cromwell, who had always been prejudiced against his sovereign, to that violent opposition which was never afterwards subdued.

MARION.

I am so much grieved to hear of such a dishonest act on the part of the king. I am afraid, if I hear of many more of his faults, I shall be compelled to be a deserter from the royal cause. I suppose the part Cromwell took in that sad affair laid the foundation of his popularity.

MRS. LESLIE.

He had been rather active in public life before that period, and was already in some favour with the people; and the high sense of justice he manifested on that occasion, added to the vigour and earnestness with which he upheld right against might, so increased his popularity, that he was elected member for Cambridge at the next parliament, and was long honoured by the title of Lord of the Fens. And now I think I have told you all I remember connected with the changes in this once desolate, but now abundant district.

HERBERT.

Thank you, dear mamma, for your very interesting account. I am sure, for the future, whenever I hear papa and his friends talking of reclaiming waste land and an improved system of cultivation, and such subjects, that I have hitherto thought very dull and dry, I shall listen with much greater attention, and shall not fail to remember all you have told us about the Bedford Level.

MRS. LESLIE.

I am very glad, my dear boy, to have awakened your interest in so useful and practical a subject. But it is high time for Willie to point out the boundaries of Huntingdonshire.

WILLIE.

Huntingdonshire is bounded on the north and north-west by Northamptonshire, on the south-west by Bedfordshire, and on the south and east by Cambridgeshire.

MARION.

This is one of the smallest counties of England, only Middlesex and Rutland being inferior to it in extent. Its greatest length is about twenty-nine miles, and its breadth twenty-three miles. There are also two inconsiderable detached portions on the borders of Bedfordshire.

HERBERT.

It is generally thought that Huntingdonshire originally formed part of the territories of the Iceni. On their conquest by the Romans it comprised part of the province of Flavia Cæsariensis, and during the early part of the Saxon Heptarchy was included in the kingdom of East Anglia, but was afterwards annexed to Mercia.

KATE.

The county is supposed to have derived its name from the advantages for hunting which it formerly possessed in the immense forests by which it was covered. They were destroyed by command of the kings Henry the Second, Henry the Third, and Edward the First.

WILLIE.

I can point out on the map, mamma, which part of the county belongs to the Bedford Level. It is to the east, where you see so many places are marked *fens*.

MRS. LESLIE.

Quite right, my dear. This fenny district, you see, borders on, and extends into, Cambridgeshire.

WILLIE.

What are those places marked *meres*? they look just like lakes.

HERBERT.

They are lakes, Willie; the term *mere* is used in this county to signify a large pool or lake. There are three principal meres,

Whittlesea, Ramsey, and Ugg. Whittlesea Mere, which is the largest, is described as some miles in extent, abounding in fish and wild-fowl. It is much frequented during the summer months by sailing and fishing parties.

MRS. LESLIE.

Your information would have been quite correct, my dear Herbert, if it had been given some years ago; but a no less wonderful change has been effected in these pools or lakes than in the marshy country by which they are surrounded. The "snare of the fowler," which was formerly spread for the unwary bird, has now given place to the ploughshare and reaping-hook, and well-kept farms and neat homesteads occupy the places which were formerly known only as decoys.

HERBERT.

But do you really mean that the pools or lakes have been brought under cultivation?

MRS. LESLIE.

I do. Ramsey Mere and Ugg Mere were thoroughly drained some fifteen or twenty years ago. Whittlesea Mere was drained and cultivated about five years back, and all now produce abundant crops of corn.

WILLIE.

You spoke of the "snare of the fowler," mamma, and I remember those very words were in the psalm papa read this morning, but there was not anything about catching wild-fowl.

MRS. LESLIE.

The Psalmist used the words in a figurative sense, but with an evident allusion to the method of capturing birds by decoys or snares. He assured the godly that the Lord would deliver them from the snare of the fowler, as well as from many other evils. Can you not tell me who the fowler is that lays snares for us and desires to entrap us all?

WILLIE.

Oh! yes, mamma. Satan is the fowler, and his temptations are the snares.

MRS. LESLIE.

Very true, Willie. And now, my dear children, there is a lesson we may all learn even from the wild-fowl. In the first place, they are very timid birds, and avoid every place of danger. They fly to a great height in the air, and before they alight on any spot fly round and round it, as if to ascertain whether it be a place of safety, and afterwards descend with great caution. When they sleep, which they generally do in the day-time, some of the flock remain as watchers, and give alarm upon the least approach of danger. Indeed, the extreme wariness and vigilance of these birds require the utmost skill and ingenuity in order to entrap them. May we be as watchful and wary against the wiles of our great adversary, who "goeth about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." May we watch and pray that we enter not into temptation, and then we may rest assured that God, who knoweth our weakness and infirmities, will deliver us from the snare of the fowler.

WILLIE.

How very far apart the places look on this map compared with what they do in some counties, and how few are marked in large letters, mamma.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; Huntingdon is a thinly peopled county, and contains few places of importance. The inhabitants are principally engaged in agriculture and lace-making, but spinning yarn gives some employment to women and children during the winter season. You may now mention the county town, Willie.

WILLIE.

Huntingdon, on the river Ouse.

KATE.

Have many traces of the Romans been found in this county, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

The town of Huntingdon is built on a Roman road, and archæologists are of opinion that a Roman station existed either there, or on the site of its suburb, the extensive village of Godmanchester,

which is now united with Huntingdon as a borough. Roman pottery, coins, and armoury have been found in the neighbourhood, and are carefully preserved in the Literary Institution at Huntingdon.

HERBERT.

It appears that Huntingdon was a place of considerable importance under the Saxons. Edward the Elder is said to have erected a castle there, which was destroyed in the reign of Henry the Third. The town is supposed to have been formerly much larger than it is now, as old historians speak of fifteen churches which once existed, while there are now but two open for divine worship. A third has been built some years, but is not yet consecrated. The population of Huntingdon is but little more than 6000. A considerable trade in wool and corn is carried on.

MRS. LESLIE.

Your account of the county town of Huntingdon is necessarily a very meagre one, as there is but little to excite interest, either in its past history or present state; but it has a biographical recollection, which at least will afford some scope for conversation. You are all aware that it was the birthplace of one of the most remarkable men that ever lived—Oliver Cromwell, the Protector of England, Scotland, and Ireland.

WILLIE.

Oh! mamma, I don't want to hear much about him, for I can never forgive him for pulling all the old castles and churches down!

KATE.

Nor I, I am sure, for his cruelty to the poor heart-broken king! I never can believe him to be anything but a very wicked man!

MRS. LESLIE.

Do not be too hasty in forming your opinion, my dear. Perhaps we may find some good in him after all, notwithstanding his ambition and misguided zeal. But let us inquire a little into his parentage and early life.

MARION.

Oliver Cromwell was born at Huntingdon, on the 25th of April, 1599, of highly respectable parents, his father being the proprietor of an extensive brewery, and his mother, it is said, being remotely connected with the royal house of Stuart. In his youth, Cromwell evinced an obstinacy of disposition, and an unwillingness to submit to the discipline of school and the authority of his masters, and as he grew up he associated with idle and dissolute companions, and, among other vices, became much addicted to that of gambling. At the age of twenty-one he married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir James Bouchier, and immediately commenced a different course of conduct.

MRS. LESLIE.

His reformation, I believe, is rather to be ascribed to his connection with the Puritans, which commenced about that time, and to the strength of his own religious convictions, than to the influence of the excellent lady to whom he was united.

MARION.

And do you really believe that Cromwell *was* a religious man, mamma, and not the hypocrite he has generally been represented?

MRS. LESLIE.

I do believe his profession of piety to have been genuine and sincere, although I can by no means reconcile all his conduct with such a profession. His character is one very difficult to understand, being apparently a compound of contradictory virtues and vices. His religious zeal amounted to enthusiasm, and there is great reason to believe that many of his deeds of blood proceeded more from a misguided judgment, and a conviction that he was designed by God to free his country from despotism by any means, than from actual and premeditated crime.

HERBERT.

I met this morning with one instance of the sincerity of his religion, at any rate. It is related that when he became convinced of the evil of gambling, he returned to the losers several

large sums of money, which he had formerly won. In one case to the amount of 120*l*.

KATE.

Cromwell was not much of an orator, if I remember right.

HERBERT.

Indeed he was not! I shall never forget hearing Uncle George read one of his speeches, from Hume's History of England. Such a roundabout rigmarole of confused nonsense I never heard before, nor since. From first to last, it was impossible to make anything out of it, or at all to understand what he intended to convey. His manner, however, was very vehement, so that although his speeches were generally deficient in clearness, he managed sometimes to give his hearers the impression that they were listening to a very powerful harangue.

MARION.

I should think none but very ignorant persons could possibly mistake sound for sense. I have often wondered how it was that Cromwell gained such an influence over the minds of the people, for I believe his dress, and personal appearance, were as unprepossessing as his speeches were confused and inelegant.

MRS. LESLIE.

Notwithstanding his external deficiencies, Cromwell was a man of mighty genius and extraordinary abilities. His military skill was most remarkable. Without having been brought up to the profession of arms, and having led a comparatively retired life for forty years, he no sooner entered the parliamentary army than he proved himself worthy to be placed at its head. He was just such a leader as the people wanted in their struggle for the liberties of their country. Bold, vigorous, and decisive in action, stern in discipline, and with a firm conviction that he was engaged in a righteous cause, he entered into engagement after engagement with signal and singular success. The fact that *he never was beaten*, even when contending with far greater numbers than his own, as in the battle of Dunbar, sufficiently establishes his military skill.

MARION.

But, dear mamma, his putting Charles the First to death could not have been a righteous act.

MRS. LESLIE.

We are not certain that he was the instigator of that cruel deed. We know that Charles had rendered himself obnoxious to the people by his unconstitutional and oppressive acts; but whether the idea of regicide originated with the army or its leader, is a point difficult to be ascertained. Cromwell entirely disclaimed it, and protested that he was led to participate in it by the force of circumstances rather than by his own unbiassed will.

KATE.

I do not think that makes him appear in at all a better light. It puts me in mind of Pilate, who condemned our Saviour to satisfy the malice of the people, while at the same time he said, "I find no fault in Him."

MRS. LESLIE.

So far from being a parallel case, there were many and glaring faults to find with Charles, notwithstanding his domestic virtues and the amiable deportment of his private life; faults which are utterly abhorrent to every well-constituted mind. Macaulay, who, I suppose, has had greater access to materials, and has more deeply investigated the subject than any other historian, thus speaks of him:—"Charles was not only a most unscrupulous, but a most unlucky dissembler. There never was a politician to whom so many frauds and falsehoods were brought home by undeniable evidence. He publicly recognised the Houses at Westminster as a legal Parliament, and, at the same time, made a private minute in council, declaring the recognition null. He publicly disclaimed all thought of calling in foreign aid against his people: he privately solicited aid from France, from Denmark, and from Lorraine. He publicly denied that he employed Papists: at the same time he privately sent to his generals directions to employ every Papist that would serve. He publicly took the sacrament at Oxford, as a pledge that he never would even connive at Popery: he privately assured his

wife that he intended to tolerate Popery in England, and he authorised Lord Glamorgan to promise that Popery should be established in Ireland. Then he attempted to clear himself at his agent's expense. Glamorgan received, in the royal handwriting, reprimands intended to be read by others, and eulogies which were to be seen only by himself. To such an extent, indeed, had insincerity now tainted the King's whole nature, that his most devoted friends could not refrain from complaining to each other, with bitter grief and shame, of his crooked politics. His defeats, they said, gave them less pain than his intrigues."

MARION.

Oh ! unhappy, faithless Charles ! I fear we shall all be compelled to desert your cause !

HERBERT.

Some excuse, I think, may be found for him in the advice of his divines, who told him, "that between him and his subjects there could be nothing of the nature of mutual contract ; that he could not, if he would, divest himself of his despotic authority, and that in every promise which he made, there was an implied reservation that such promise might be broken in case of necessity, and that of the necessity he was the sole judge."*

MRS. LESLIE.

Such advice might be some slight palliation of his faithlessness, but could never justify it.

KATE.

I forget how long after the death of Charles it was before Cromwell was declared Protector.

MRS. LESLIE.

Rather more than four years, during which time his military skill was displayed in the decisive victories of Drogheda, Dunbar, and Worcester.

KATE.

After he had gained the height of his ambition, I believe he was very far from happy.

* Macaulay.

MRS. LESLIE.

His life was constantly embittered by the fear of assassination, which, it was well known, the royalists openly advised. To give you an idea of the state of his mind at that period, I cannot do better than to read you an extract from Hume. Speaking of Cromwell, he says: "The aspect of strangers was uneasy to him; with a piercing and anxious eye, he surveyed every face to which he was not daily accustomed. He never moved a step without strong guards attending him; he wore armour under his clothes, and farther secured himself by offensive weapons, a sword, falchion, and pistols, which he always carried about him. He returned from no place by the direct road, or by the same way which he went. Every journey he performed with hurry and precipitation. Seldom he slept above three nights together in the same chamber, and he never let it be known beforehand what chamber he intended to choose, nor intrusted himself in any which was not provided with backdoors, at which sentinels were placed. Society terrified him while he reflected on his numerous unknown, and implacable enemies; solitude astonished him by withdrawing that protection which he found so necessary for his security." Thus, a prey to mental inquietude, the health of Cromwell began visibly to decline, and at length his life was terminated by a tertian ague, on the 3rd of September, 1658, after having sustained the honours and burdens of the Protectorate about five years and five months.

MARION.

One can hardly help pitying the poor heart-broken old man, though he was a usurper. I would rather have been Charles in his lonely castle at Carisbrook, sustained by his penitent, submissive spirit; than Cromwell, notwithstanding his glory and renown.

MRS. LESLIE.

The pathway of a usurper must ever be a thorny one, and though I would hope the hypocrisy, and much of the cruelty ascribed to Cromwell are without foundation, many of his acts were perfectly unjustifiable, and the remembrance of them, without doubt, contributed to the terror and apprehensions of his

latter days. But it is time we noticed some of the other towns of Huntingdonshire.

MARION.

You mentioned the village of Godmanchester, mamma, as a suburb of Huntingdon. Some curious old customs are related by Dugdale as still observed there; one of which is, that the *youngest* son of the first wife is the heir; and another that males are of age at *twenty*, and females at *sixteen*.

MRS. LESLIE.

Both of which statements are merely legends of olden time, and are not known now. The same laws relating to heirship and majority exist there as in other parts of our country.

HERBERT.

I think the termination *chester* to the name of this village, taken in connection with the Roman coins which have been excavated, makes it appear probable that the Roman station mentioned by antiquaries, existed here, and not at Huntingdon.

MRS. LESLIE.

Such an opinion seems to be well grounded, certainly; but whatever was its state under the Romans, it is known to have been a place of considerable importance during the Saxon power in England, and to have derived the former part of its present name from Gormund or Guthrum, a Danish chieftain, to whom Alfred, on the establishment of peace, ceded this part of his dominions. Now, Willie, can you mention some other places in this county?

WILLIE.

St. Ives, St. Neot's, Ramsey, Kimbolton, and Yaxley, are all in Huntingdonshire.

HERBERT.

The Saxon name of St. Ives was Slepe. Its present name is said to be derived from St. Ivo, a Persian missionary, who travelled through England about the year 600. His supposed remains were discovered at this town some centuries afterwards, and on the spot where they were found, the monks of Ramsey, to

whom the manor belonged, built a priory, which remained until the dissolution of monastic houses in England.

MARION.

St. Neot's also derives its name from a saint so called, who was much distinguished in Saxon times, and whose remains were brought there from Neot-Stock, in Cornwall, but afterwards removed to Croyland for interment. The town was anciently celebrated for a Benedictine monastery, which was partially destroyed by the Danes, and after undergoing many changes, was suppressed at the Reformation. The town contains upwards of 3000 inhabitants, and derives its principal importance from its corn market, paper manufactory, and iron foundry.

HERBERT.

The market town of Ramsey was also formerly much celebrated for its magnificent abbey, of which some fragments still exist. A very beautiful remnant is to be seen at the lodge leading to the mansion of Edward Fellowes, Esq., and some portions of the cloisters and chapel are also to be found in the cellars and other domestic offices of the house. Henry Cromwell, an uncle of the Protector, resided at Ramsey Abbey after its ecclesiastical importance had passed away, and I am told that a fine old oak door, studded with nails, and having the initials H. C., is now used as one of the cellar doors. I am always much interested in hearing of, or seeing any relics of ancient times. Kimbolton and Yaxley are places of small importance; at the former, Catharine of Arragon resided for some time after her divorce from Henry the Eighth.

WILLIE.

Is not Stilton, celebrated for cheese, in this county, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

The village of Stilton, from which the cheese takes its name, is in this county, although the cheese is not made there, and there is every reason to believe it never was. The cheese so called is produced principally from the dairies of Leicestershire and Lincolnshire.

WILLIE.

How strange that it should be called Stilton cheese, then.

MRS. LESLIE.

Stilton, which was formerly a much more considerable place than it now is, was originally the great market for that celebrated cheese, from which circumstance it no doubt derived its name; but even the market is now done away, and Stilton cheese is only so in name.

KATE.

I wonder why Stilton is a place of less importance than it used to be? I thought all places in England had improved of late years.

MRS. LESLIE.

Not all places, certainly. The railways have caused a great change all over the country, and in most instances a very beneficial one; but in some cases they have rather contributed to the decay than to the prosperity of a town, by taking the traffic that formerly passed through it in another direction. Stilton is one of those places. The great road to the north, which runs through it, was formerly much frequented, which of course added to the prosperity of the town. It is now but little used, in consequence of the railway lines, and the town of Stilton is considerably reduced in consequence. But we have had a long conversation, considering Huntingdonshire was a county in which we thought we should find little to interest us. Next week our topic will be Northamptonshire, a county which I think will afford many interesting recollections.

CONVERSATION XX.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

SUBJECTS:— Boundaries.— Size.— Occupation by Romans.— General Features.— Chief Rivers.— Northampton.— Singular Tenure.— Ancient Importance of Farriers' Art.— Historical Associations of Northampton.— Margaret of Anjou.— Naseby.— Destructive Fire.— Manufactures.— Magnificent Cross.— Brixworth Church.— Peterborough Cathedral.— Desecration by Cromwell's Soldiers.— Trade of City.— Wellingborough.— Kettering.— Andrew Fuller.— Daventry.— Ancient Camp.— Simplicity of Ancient Fortifications.— Judith Countess of Northumberland.— Manufactures of Daventry.— Oundle.— Fotheringay Castle.— Historical Recollections.— Mary Queen of Scots.— Unjust Trial.— Excellency of our present Criminal Laws.— Duplicity of Queen Elizabeth.— Execution of Scottish Queen.— Destruction of Fotheringay Castle.— Towcester.— Discovery of Roman Antiquities.— Appalling Disclosure.

"WHAT a curiously shaped county Northamptonshire is, mamma," said Willie, drawing his mother's attention to a map which lay before him, "and it is so surrounded by other counties, that I really cannot tell how to describe its boundaries."

"Then we must see if we can help you," she replied. "Perhaps Katie can overcome the difficulty."

KATE.

I scarcely know where to begin, but I should think Lincolnshire and Rutland would be considered the northern boundaries; Leicestershire and Warwickshire the western; Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire the southern; and Bedfordshire, Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire the eastern.

MRS. LESLIE.

Very good. I do not see how you could have described them better. As you perceive, this county lies obliquely across the middle of England, its greatest length being from north-east to south-west. In that direction its extent is about sixty-eight miles. Its greatest breadth is but little more than twenty-six miles.

HERBERT.

It appears to be doubtful to which British tribe this county belonged before the conquest of Britain by the Romans; but, upon the Roman division of the country, it was included in the province termed Flavia Cæsariensis. Its occupation by the Romans is fully established by the existence of several Roman roads and the remains of some important stations, as well as by the Roman relics that have been discovered. During the Saxon heptarchy, Northamptonshire was comprehended in the kingdom of Mercia.

MARION.

Northamptonshire is now principally celebrated as a grazing county. It has excellent pasture lands, and produces very fine cattle, horses, and sheep. It is also distinguished for the number of gentlemen's seats it contains.

WILLIE.

There are not any mountains or high hills in this county, are there, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

No; the surface is for the most part level, or at least only varied by gentle hills, with the exception, indeed, of some heights on the borders of Warwickshire, which rise to about 800 feet above the level of the sea. The only important mineral production of the county is iron, and that is found to a very limited extent, the annual produce amounting only to about 90,000 tons. Now, Willie, suppose you mention the chief rivers and the county town.

WILLIE.

The chief rivers are the Nen, the Ouse, and the Cherwell. Northampton is the county town, on the river Nen.

MARION.

The origin of this town is said to be unknown. It is believed to have suffered severely from the Danes, although but little mention is made of it until after the Conquest.

MRS. LESLIE.

It is related that William the Conqueror bestowed the town of Northampton upon a Norman nobleman named Simon St. Liz, on condition of his providing shoes for his horses.

KATE.

Providing shoes for his horses, mamma! Then this Norman nobleman was only the king's farrier after all!

MRS. LESLIE.

The Normans attached great importance to the farriers' art, and many privileges were granted in connection with it. From this cause, it was long thought that the custom of shoeing horses was introduced into England by the Conqueror, but archæologists are of opinion that the art was practised long before, even during the Roman occupation of Britain.

MARION.

In the contest between King John and the barons, Northampton castle was held for the king, and the town shared largely in the troubles of his unquiet reign, as well as in the succeeding one of Henry the Third.

MRS. LESLIE.

It is to be hoped more peaceful times succeeded, as we do not read of anything to the contrary for the next two centuries. In the reign of Henry the Sixth, however, the town was again the scene of war and bloodshed, a great battle having been fought there between the Yorkists and Lancastrians, in which the king was

taken prisoner, and the intrepid Queen Margaret and her son the Prince of Wales with difficulty escaped to Scotland.

KATE.

I cannot say that I like Margaret of Anjou at all. She was such a bold, daring woman, and the cause of so much misery and bloodshed. I think it would have been a good thing if she had been taken prisoner instead of her poor passive husband.

MRS. LESLIE.

We must recollect that Margaret was actuated by what she believed to be her son's undoubted right to his father's throne, and her natural intrepidity and boldness seemed to be called into exercise by her husband's inactivity: still I fear she was a woman of a merciless and vindictive spirit, and would not long have been at peace if she could. Her latter days were very miserable. I daresay you remember, that she and her son were taken prisoners after the battle of Tewkesbury, and that the latter was immediately assassinated, by the dukes of Clarence and Gloucester, while Margaret was conveyed to the Tower, and, after languishing there for five years, was set at liberty, and at last died in France, nine years after the son for whom she had risked so much.

HERBERT.

The town of Northampton also took part in the civil wars of Charles the First, and was fortified for the parliament against the king. At Naseby, a village thirteen miles distant, was fought that memorable battle which was so fatal to the royal cause.

MRS. LESLIE.

As we have so often spoken of the wars of that period, we will not dwell upon them now; but pass on to notice a calamity which occurred at Northampton about fifteen years after the Restoration.

MARION.

You mean a most destructive fire, which occurred in 1675, I suppose, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

I do, my dear.

MARION.

It is stated that property to the amount of 150,000*l.* was destroyed, and 700 families were rendered homeless by the conflagration. The town, it is supposed, would have been consigned to utter oblivion, had not the most liberal contributions flowed in from all parts of the kingdom to aid in its restoration. Charles the Second gave 1000 tons of timber from the royal forest for that purpose.

MRS. LESLIE.

I wonder whether Willie can now tell us what is the principal branch of industry carried on at Northampton.

WILLIE.

The manufacture of boots and shoes, mamma. I read that great numbers of those sold in London are made at this town, and that it also exports them to foreign countries.

MRS. LESLIE.

In the villages around Northampton, the females are much employed in lace-making; but of late years it has become a very unprofitable employment. The population of Northampton is about 27,000.

MARION.

One of the beautiful crosses erected by Edward the First to the memory of his queen is at a short distance from the town, upon the London road. It is still in a good state of preservation.

HERBERT.

Before we leave this neighbourhood, I should like to mention one of the most remarkable antiquities of the county—Brixworth church, about six miles from Northampton. It is believed to be the most ancient of the ecclesiastical structures of England, and is thought to have been originally erected in the time of the Romans, Roman materials being employed in the architecture, which is of the Early Saxon period. It has undergone many alterations since the Conquest, but is still an object of great interest to archæologists.

MARION.

I suppose we had better now turn our attention to Peterborough, the smallest city, with the exception of Wells, and the poorest bishopric in England. Its name was taken from a monastery dedicated to St. Peter, which was erected, during the Saxon heptarchy, by two kings of Mercia. The monastery was entirely destroyed by the Danes, who massacred the abbot and monks with the greatest barbarity.

HERBERT.

I think Peterborough was made a bishop's see by Henry the Eighth.

MRS. LESLIE.

It was; this county and Rutland forming its diocese, which formerly belonged to that of Lincoln. The cathedral, which was commenced in the early part of the twelfth century, is a most massive and majestic structure; the architecture of the west front is considered eminently beautiful.

KATE.

This cathedral is spoken of as one of those which suffered most severely during the civil wars. It is said, that the parliamentary army stripped it to the very walls, and destroyed almost all its ancient records.

WILLIE.

Oh! dear, dear! however far we go, we meet with some sad accounts of those wicked parliament soldiers.

MRS. LESLIE.

Can you mention the population of Peterborough, Katie, and in what the trade of the city chiefly consists?

KATE.

Its population is about 9000, and the principal trade which is carried on is in malt and corn.

MRS. LESLIE.

Now, Willie, tell us the names of some other towns of this county?

WILLIE.

Wellingborough, Kettering, Daventry, Oundle, and Towcester are all towns of Northamptonshire.

MARION.

The town of Wellingborough derived its name from its wells of medicinal water. One, called the Red Well, was formerly so celebrated, that it is said Charles the First and his queen lived a season under tents in its immediate vicinity, in order to have the benefit of it.

WILLIE.

I suppose that was before those dreadful civil wars began?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; it is said to have been in 1626, about a year after the king's accession to the throne. Poor Charles! He little thought what troubles were in store for him; though even then his marriage with Henrietta Maria of France, an avowed Papist, had rendered him somewhat unpopular.

HERBERT.

Wellingborough is described as a clean looking town, with the houses built principally of red sandstone. It is said to have a very handsome church, surmounted by a beautiful spire. The interior of the church contains some fine specimens of ancient screen work; the east window is also much admired.

KATE.

Like almost all the towns of Northamptonshire, the principal trade of Wellingborough consists in boots and shoes. Its population is upwards of 5000.

MARION.

Kettering is a well-built town, containing about 5000 inhabitants. It was the birthplace and scene of the labours of Andrew Fuller, an eminent dissenting divine, who by unwearied assiduity and application made up for the want of early education. He became without assistance complete master of the Hebrew, Greek, and Latin languages, published many works upon theological subjects, and, after a life of extensive usefulness, died at Kettering in 1815.

HERBERT.

The market town of Daventry is a place of great antiquity, and is supposed to have been built upon the ruins of a Roman station. About half a mile from the town is a very interesting spot called "Borough Hill," on the summit of which is one of the most extensive encampments in the kingdom. Various conjectures have been formed respecting its origin, some ascribing it to the Britons, some to the Romans, while others have considered it a Danish fortification.

MRS. LESLIE.

There is every reason to believe that it was one of the grand military posts of the Romans, as, wherever excavations have been made, Roman relics have been discovered.

KATE.

I do not think I have quite a clear idea of an encampment, mamma.

MRS. LESLIE.

The term camp, or encampment, is generally applied to a large open space, in which, in time of war, the soldiers pitch their tents, or build themselves huts of twigs or rushes. A Roman encampment was always surrounded by a ditch, usually nine feet deep and twelve broad, the earth which was dug out of it being thrown up to form a rampart or fortification. The encampment we have been speaking of at Daventry, is considered to have been of sufficient extent to contain 100,000 men.

KATE.

But an earthen wall could not be much protection against the enemy.

MRS. LESLIE.

Not against an enemy provided with artillery, and all the destructive engines of warfare which now exist; but in times when the weapons of attack were less formidable, simple means of defence alone were necessary. In course of time round or square towers were added to the walls; but, as I suppose a discussion on the art of fortification would not be very interesting to you, it will be as well for us to proceed to notice the town of Daventry in later times.

MARION.

Daventry is said to have been a place of considerable importance at the time of the Norman conquest, and to have been included in the immense possessions with which the Conqueror enriched his niece Judith, wife of the Earl of Northumberland.

KATE.

I wonder what was the condition on which the Countess held her estates. I think William generally made some sort of bargain for what he gave.

MRS. LESLIE.

The aggrandisement of his connections appears to have been a very powerful motive with him in parcelling out the lands of his newly acquired kingdom. But whatever was the cause of Judith gaining her possessions, she did not long retain them; her husband, happening to incur the Conqueror's displeasure, was beheaded by his order, and her estates were alienated.

KATE.

Daventry contains a population of between 4000 and 5000, but I do not think it is a place of much importance now. Is it, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Not of commercial or manufacturing importance; but it is a place eminently interesting to the antiquary from its undoubted antiquity. Some years ago there was a manufactory of silk stockings, but that is entirely gone; it was also formerly celebrated for whips, but the manufacture is now almost extinct. And now, which of you can tell me anything in connection with Oundle?

HERBERT.

I suppose Oundle derives its chief interest from being near to the village of Fotheringay, so celebrated in history as the scene of the execution of Mary Queen of Scots.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; I believe there is little in the town of Oundle to attract attention, while the village of Fotheringay, about two miles distant, is full of interesting historical recollections.

KATE.

Indeed, mamma! I never heard anything about it, except as being the place where the Queen of Scots was beheaded, after having been nineteen years a prisoner in England.

MRS. LESLIE.

The first notice we have of the manor of Fotheringay, goes back to a period immediately succeeding the Conquest, when it was held by the Countess Judith whom we have just mentioned. In 1084 the castle was erected by Simon St. Liz, the king's farrier, as Katie called him, but I believe it then only consisted of a few stone-built apartments, walled in, and surrounded by a moat.

HERBERT.

The castle was rebuilt in the reign of Edward the Third.

MRS. LESLIE.

It was; and afterwards came into possession of several members of the Plantagenet family. Richard the Third, who you know was the last of the Plantagenets, was born there. It was afterwards given by Henry the Seventh to his wife, the princess Elizabeth, daughter of Edward the Fourth.

MARION.

I am glad to hear of Henry the Seventh bestowing any gift upon his wife, because I remember he was an unkind husband in most things; and very jealous because the queen was more beloved by the people than he was himself.

MRS. LESLIE.

I do not suppose that conjugal affection had much to do with the gift, either in this instance or in the account we have of the next transfer of the castle. In the succeeding reign, Henry the Eighth settled it upon poor Catharine of Arragon, whom he subsequently divorced.

HERBERT.

Then I suppose it became next the property of Elizabeth, as she made it the prison of the Queen of Scots.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; it belonged to the crown until the reign of James the First. What became of it afterwards, I think you know.

MARION.

Do you think there were any circumstances which could justify Elizabeth's execution of Mary Stuart, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

I believe there were none which could either justify or excuse it, and that the act was opposed to every law human and divine. It is true an act of parliament was passed in 1585, after Mary had been seventeen years a prisoner in England, for the alleged violation of which she underwent the semblance of a trial, was pronounced guilty, and condemned to death; but her trial was altogether such a combination of oppression and injustice, and her conviction had so evidently been determined on beforehand, that every honest heart must regard it with indignation, and look upon her death as a legalised assassination.

KATE.

Can you tell us what the Act was, mamma, that Mary was accused of breaking?

MRS. LESLIE.

It declared that "whosoever should endeavour to raise a rebellion in the kingdom, or attempt the queen's life, or claimed any right to the crown of England, should be tried by a commission appointed by the queen, and, if found guilty, put to death." Mary, you know, was accused of being concerned in the conspiracy of Anthony Babington, a Catholic gentlemen, who was executed, with fourteen of his confederates, for being engaged in a plot to assassinate Elizabeth and deliver the Scottish queen.

MARION.

And was there any evidence against her?

MRS. LESLIE.

The principal evidence upon which she was condemned was some letters and papers which, it is believed, were forgeries; and

the written statements of two persons, who were not even required to be present at the trial. She was not allowed the aid of counsel, and her judges, it is well known, had been for years endeavouring to accomplish her destruction.

HERBERT.

Such a one-sided trial would not be tolerated now-a-days.

MRS. LESLIE.

No. It is the privilege of every person now, whether high or low, a British-born subject or a foreigner, who is accused of having violated the laws of our land, to be allowed a fair, patient, and impartial trial: he may have the aid of the best counsel he can procure; the witnesses against him are required to be present, and are subjected to a rigid cross-examination, that the truth or falsehood of their statements may be elicited; and if any of the jury are believed to be prejudiced against him, he has a right to demand that others may supply their place.

KATE.

I forget whether Mary was beheaded immediately after that unfair trial.

MRS. LESLIE.

It was nearly five months before her execution took place. Elizabeth put off signing her death-warrant from time to time, to make it appear that she was very unwilling to have her put to death.

WILLIE.

Perhaps she really was sorry to do such a cruel thing, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

I am glad to hear you say so, my dear, because you do not know all the circumstances of the case, and it is always right to think well of a person as long as we can; but I, who have read more about it, am afraid that her unwillingness to sign the warrant was only assumed, and that she was heartily glad to get rid of her by any means.

WILLIE.

Then I don't think I shall ever like Elizabeth any more, and wonder how anyone can call her "Good Queen Bess."

MRS. LESLIE.

In many respects she *was* a great and good queen, and our country is indebted to her wise government for much of its present glory; but yet there were many faults in her private character, and her execution of the Queen of Scots is a sad stain upon her memory.

WILLIE.

She did sign the warrant, then, at last?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; and her conduct at the time showed that her former reluctance to do so was only pretended. She could scarcely conceal her joy at Mary's approaching death; and yet, after it was over, she tried to put the blame upon others.

WILLIE.

And how did the poor queen feel when she was told she was to die?

MRS. LESLIE.

She bore the sad tidings with the greatest fortitude and resignation. But little time was allowed her to prepare for death, as the queen's messengers told her her execution was appointed for the following morning. The first part of the night she slept, the rest she spent in prayer. In the morning she dressed herself in a handsome robe of black velvet, and was conducted by the sheriff to the hall of the castle, where a scaffold was erected, on which was placed a chair, a cushion, and a block covered with black cloth. After a little time spent in prayer, she laid her head upon the block with the greatest calmness, and, with two strokes from the executioner, it was severed from her body.

WILLIE.

Oh, dear! mamma, of all the sad stories we have heard, I think this is the saddest!

KATE.

I am so sorry Mary continued a Roman Catholic to the last. What a pity she would not consent to see Dr. Fletcher, the Dean of Peterborough. Perhaps he might have convinced her of the errors of her religion.

HERBERT.

I think we can scarcely wonder at her refusal, when we read that her very natural wish of having a confessor was not complied with. Of course, she thought her own religion best.

WILLIE.

Can you tell me whether Fotheringay Castle still remains, mamma ?

MRS. LESLIE.

It has long been levelled with the dust, Willie. You have heard, I know, that Mary had a son, who was afterwards our James the First. He was very angry at his mother being put to death, and when he became King of England, he ordered the castle to be entirely destroyed, and scarcely anything was left to show the spot it occupied.

WILLIE.

I like him for that! I am sure that is just what I should have done, if I had been in his place, and Elizabeth had served you so, mamma.

MRS. LESLIE.

I thank you for your warm-heartedness, my dear ; but if you think a minute, you will see that it was a very silly revenge, after all. Elizabeth was dead and gone, and could not be in any way affected by the destruction of the castle, and as for the stones and mortar, I suppose they had not much to do with the sad act committed there, and certainly did not feel their disgrace. But you and I, Willie, have had almost all the conversation about Fotheringay. I daresay your brother and sisters have something more to relate before we conclude our conversation on Northamptonshire.

HERBERT.

Towcester, on the river Tow, is a place of great antiquity,

though now a town of small importance, and is thought by archaeologists to have been the Lactodurum of the Romans. That it was a Roman station is evident, not only from its termination *cester*, but from the Roman remains which have been excavated. Papa told us you could give us an account of some which had been found within these few years.

MRS. LESLIE.

I think it was in 1850, that some workmen, while digging stone in Whittlebury Forest, in the neighbourhood of Towcester, had their curiosity excited by the discovery of a mosaic pavement of some extent. The Duke of Grafton, on whose estate it was found, had the excavations proceeded with, when the entire ground-part of a villa containing seven rooms, besides a bath and hypocaust* were brought to light. On going further, the foundations of other buildings and more tessellated pavements were discovered. The pattern of one of the pavements was composed of red crosses, surrounded by a border of red, white, and blue. The introduction of the cross is supposed to indicate that the building was constructed after the reign of Constantine, and the establishment of Christianity in the Roman empire.

HERBERT.

That is a very likely supposition, as we know Constantine used a red cross upon his standard. How many interesting things the study of archæology unfolds. I intend soon to devote a good deal of time to it, and hope I shall one day be a member of the British Archæological Association.

MRS. LESLIE.

A very praiseworthy desire, and one which I trust will be gratified. But I have still more wonderful discoveries to relate in connection with this interesting station.

MARION.

We are all attention, mamma ?

* A stove for heating the Roman baths.

MRS. LESLIE.

I hope your nerves are strong enough to bear a shock, for I expect they will receive one, when I tell you that several human skeletons were found lying in different parts of the Roman building I first mentioned; five adults and two children, as well as the skeleton of a dog.

HERBERT.

But I cannot think how so many skeletons could be found in one house. I believe the Romans generally burned their dead, and buried their ashes deposited in urns?

MRS. LESLIE.

You are right; and the only conclusion that can be drawn from the number and positions of the skeletons is, that the building was suddenly destroyed by some violent calamity, which involved the inhabitants in its destruction. It is, however, by no means certain that those inhabitants were Romans, although the villa was undoubtedly a Roman work, as its destruction might not have taken place until long after the Romans had left our island. But it is time we separated: Rutlandshire will be the next county we shall notice.

CONVERSATION XXI.

RUTLANDSHIRE.

SUBJECTS:—Rutland formerly included in other Counties.—Boundaries.—Size.—Ancient Inhabitants.—Principal Occupations.—Battle of Lose-Coat Field.—Oakham.—Singular ancient Custom.—Jeffrey Hudson.—Royal Entertainment.—Uppingham.—Ecclesiastical Antiquities of County.—Principal Rivers.

“OF course mamma will not expect us to have much to say about little Rutland,” was the reply of Marion to her sister’s lamentation over the dearth of interesting matter in the county under consideration.

KATE.

I cannot think how it was that the land was so unequally distributed when England was divided into shires or counties. What could have been the reason for making Rutland so very small?

MRS. LESLIE.

I have before informed you that Rutland is not mentioned at all as a distinct county, until the reign of John.

KATE.

Then to what county did it belong before that time?

MRS. LESLIE.

Some parts of it appear to have been included in the adjacent county of Northamptonshire, while other portions are mentioned as belonging to Nottinghamshire. Now open your map, Willie, and tell us how this little county is bounded.

WILLIE.

Rutland, which is an inland county, and the smallest in England, is bounded on the north by Leicestershire and Lincolnshire; on the east by Lincolnshire; on the south by Northamptonshire; and on the west by Leicestershire.

MARION.

Its greatest length is about nineteen miles, and extreme breadth fourteen miles.

HERBERT.

This county appears to have been anciently inhabited by a British tribe called Coritani, and on its subjection by the Romans to have formed part of the district called Flavia Cæsariensis; during the Saxon Heptarchy it was part of the kingdom of Mercia. It has been thought that a Roman station occupied the spot where Great Casterton now stands on the border of Lincolnshire; but notwithstanding its high-sounding name, the present place is merely an inconsiderable village.

KATE.

The inhabitants of this little county, I believe, are chiefly employed in agriculture.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; Rutland is famous for the number and respectability of its farmers and graziers, as well as for the superiority of the oxen and sheep they rear. The soil is for the most part well watered and fertile, and affords excellent pasturage.

MARION.

How very few historical incidents are connected with this county!

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; very few. The most important one appears to have been a battle which took place between the Yorkists and Lancastrians, on the borders of Lincolnshire, in which the Lancastrians were defeated by Edward the Fourth, and their leader, Sir Robert Welles, taken prisoner and beheaded. The scene of this engagement was afterwards called Lose-coat Field, because the men of Rutland and Lincolnshire, when defeated, threw away their coats to enable them to escape more quickly.

WILLIE.

There are only two market towns in this county, mamma; Oakham and Uppingham.

MARION.

Oakham is situated in the beautiful vale of Catmoss, in the west of the county. I have not met with any mention of it previous to the Conquest; but in the reign of Henry the Second it is stated that the manor of Oakham was granted to Walcheline De Ferrars, who built a strong castle there, part of which is now the county hall.

HERBERT.

There was a singular custom formerly observed at Oakham, which was said to be derived from the De Ferrars' family. The first time a peer of the realm passed through the town he was required to forfeit a shoe from one of his horses to the lord of the manor, or to redeem it with a sum of money sufficient to purchase one of greater value.

WILLIE.

What a curious custom! I should rather give money, though, to buy another shoe than have one taken from my horse when I was on a journey.

MRS. LESLIE.

I believe most of the noble lords who passed that way were of your opinion, Willie. The tribute was, I believe, generally paid in money, and some of the horseshoes purchased with it are very handsome, and have the donor's name stamped upon them.

WILLIE.

But what could be done with so many horseshoes?

MRS. LESLIE.

They were nailed upon the castle gate, and also on the interior of the hall. I am told those places are quite studded with horseshoes.

KATE.

But Herbert did not tell us in what way this odd custom was derived from the De Ferrars' family.

MRS. LESLIE.

The family of the De Ferrars dated from the Conquest. The first nobleman of that name came over with the Conqueror, and not only held estates in England, but received his name, De Ferrars, in consideration of his services as an overseer or superintendent of the king's farriers. Three horseshoes were afterwards adopted as the arms of the De Ferrars' family, and as the manor of Oakham was bestowed upon one of the younger branches of that family, there is no doubt that from it this curious custom was derived.

KATE.

I think I have as singular a story to relate in connection with Oakham, as that we have just been told about the horseshoes.

WILLIE.

Do let us hear it, Katie?

KATE.

I remember learning long ago in my geography that Oakham was the birthplace of a celebrated dwarf named Jeffrey Hudson, and I met with an account yesterday which stated that he was so small at six or seven years old that he was actually served up at table, in a cold pasty, at an entertainment given by the Duke of Buckingham to Charles the Second and his queen.

WILLIE.

I declare I never heard of such a thing! Why, he must have been even less than General Tom Thumb!

MRS. LESLIE.

It is said that Jeffrey Hudson was at that time only eighteen inches high; and never exceeded three feet nine, although he lived to old age.

MARION.

Do you believe the story of the pie to be correct, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

I think it not at all improbable, as the Duke of Buckingham was very fond of playing foolish jokes, and would certainly not have hesitated to excite the merriment of his royal guests, at the expense of that poor little specimen of humanity, if he had taken

it into his head to do so. At any rate, it appears that the dwarf was by some means introduced to the queen, who took him to court, and kept him as one of her own retainers.

KATE.

Then it is to be hoped he was taken better care of, and not made the subject of jest and sport as he grew older.

MRS. LESLIE.

I am afraid he was not much better off in that respect, as it was quite the fashion at that time for high-born ladies to have dwarfs in their households for the purpose of affording them amusement, by the smallness of their stature and the drollery of the tricks they learned to practise?

MARION.

Oh! mamma, don't you think there is something shocking in the idea of deriving amusement from the deficiencies of our fellow-creatures?

MRS. LESLIE.

I do, indeed; and although the fancy for dwarfs, which formerly prevailed in almost all the European courts, was beneficial in some measure, inasmuch as it provided the comforts of life for those who were physically incapacitated for labouring for themselves, yet the habit of regarding them only as puppets or buffoons, which was too often the case, cannot be too strongly censured and condemned. But have you anything else to tell me in reference to Oakham?

MARION.

It is a neatly built town, containing upwards of 3000 inhabitants. It has a richly endowed grammar school, which was founded in 1584, by Robert Johnson, Archdeacon of Leicester. It has also several other schools.

HERBERT.

Uppingham, the only remaining market town in this county, is about seven miles from Oakham, and contains a population of little more than 2000. It is pleasantly situated on an eminence, from which circumstance it is thought to have received its name. It is described as being superior in appearance to Oakham, and

has a handsome Gothic church with a lofty spire, and several interesting specimens of architecture. The scenery around Uppingham is extensive and agreeable, and embellished with many handsome residences.

MRS. LESLIE.

Your mention of Uppingham Church reminds me that some few ecclesiastical antiquities are to be met with in the village churches of this county; but though a personal inspection of them would be highly interesting, their bare enumeration is scarcely necessary.

WILLIE.

I don't think we have mentioned a single river in Rutland.

MARION.

The Welland, on the south-eastern border, is the principal river, and its tributaries are the little river Eye and the Chater. There are also numerous springs and rivulets in different parts of the county. And now, mamma, I think we have communicated all we have to tell about "little Rutland."

MRS. LESLIE.

Very well. As I told you once before, we must be contented with such information as we find relative to any particular county. The small size of Rutlandshire, added to the circumstances of its industrial resources being almost exclusively agricultural and its population scattered over unimportant villages, makes it unlikely that it should possess many features of general interest. The busy bee, you know, does not cull an equal amount of sweetness from every flower, yet she neglects no opportunity of adding to the treasures of her hive, but with a thrifty care, gathers and lays up every particle for future use; so even the small amount of information you have collected relative to "little Rutland," if laid up in the storehouse of your memory, may prove of benefit in time to come. The next county which naturally presents itself for our consideration is Leicestershire; but, for a reason which I will leave you to discover in the course of your researches, I should prefer Nottinghamshire engaging our attention first; that county, therefore, will be your subject for investigation during the ensuing week.

CONVERSATION XXII.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

SUBJECTS:—Robin Hood.—Question of real Existence.—Character estimated according to the Requirements of Scripture.—Boundaries of County.—Size — Chief Rivers.—Ancient Inhabitants.—Traces of Romans.—Sherwood Forest.—Clipstone Park.—Nottingham.—Derivation of Name.—Nottingham Castle.—Norman Injustice.—Historical Recollections.—Modern Mansion on Castle Hill.—Subterranean Rocks.—Manufactures of the Town.—Invention of Stocking Frame.—William Lee.—Success and Discouragements.—Machinery applied to Manufacture of Lace.—Elegance of Productions.—Lace formerly wholly imported.—Henry Kirke White.—Newark.—Death of King John.—Trade of Town.—Mansfield.—Formerly a Royal Residence.—Manufactures.—Workshop.—Southwell.—Collegiate Church.—Newstead Abbey.

“WHAT is the subject that seems to be causing you so much perplexity, my dear Herbert?” said Mrs. Leslie, when she again met her children for conversation on the past and present condition of England. “I have observed for the last few days, that your leisure time has been engaged in most persevering and painstaking research; but from the earnestness with which you are still consulting volume after volume, I fear your labours have not led to any very satisfactory conclusion.

HERBERT.

Indeed they have not, mamma! I have been trying to find out whether Robin Hood, the bold outlaw of Sherwood Forest, of whom we shall have to speak in our conversation on Nottingham-

shire, was a real historical character, or only the creation of the ballad-singer's brain, and really the more I have looked into the subject the greater is my doubt about it.

MRS. LESLIE.

That is a question that has puzzled older and wiser heads than yours, my dear, and has been the subject of much learned discussion among some of the most eminent antiquaries of our day, as well as of those who lived during the last century.

MARION.

I never had any idea, until the last few days, that the real existence of Robin Hood was disputed, although I know his rank was considered doubtful. I remember learning in Mangnall's Questions, that he lived in the reign of Richard the First, and was supposed to be the Earl of Huntingdon, but outlawed for some misdemeanors committed at court.

MRS. LESLIE.

One great argument in support of his existence being merely traditional, is thought to be derived from the circumstance of his not being mentioned by any historical writer before the end of the fourteenth century. Up to that period, the only notice of him is to be found in a series of popular ballads, in which the daring deeds of himself and his bold company of archers are recounted.

MARION.

But you know, mamma, printing had not been introduced into England at that period, and in the early ages national events used to be made known only by the bards or poets.

MRS. LESLIE.

That is very true. But during the supposed era of Robin Hood, the manuscript works of several historians have handed down the events which then took place, and it is certainly extraordinary that so wonderful a person as the celebrated outlaw should be passed by unnoticed. That his bold and reckless life, whether real or fictitious, should find many admirers in an age

struggling for independence, and should afford a favourite theme for the ballad-maker, is perfectly natural, but the absence of all notice of such a person by the veritable historians of the age, certainly affords grounds for doubting the reality of his existence. On the other hand, a learned antiquary of our own age, the Rev. Joseph Hunter, who has bestowed much laborious and patient research upon this interesting question, endeavours to prove by ancient documents, taken in connection with one of the ballads, not only that Robin Hood was a real personage, but that he lived during the time of our first three Edwards, a century later than the period usually ascribed to him. It would take up far too much of our time this morning to enter into the minute details which lead him to arrive at such a conclusion. I will endeavour to get the interesting treatise he has written on the subject for your perusal.

HERBERT.

But do, dear mamma, tell us whether he believes Robin Hood to have been such a brave, noble-hearted, generous fellow, as he has been supposed to be; one who only took from the rich to bestow upon the poor, and never injured or molested any but tyrants and oppressors? I am afraid you will be shocked, mamma, but sometimes when I have been reading of him and his merry comrades, I have almost longed to have been one of that brave company of archers, living such a free and joyous life under the greenwood tree.

MRS. LESLIE.

You must take care, my dear boy, lest the feelings of adventure and romance, so natural to youth, should lead you to coincide with what is wrong. I admit there is something very attractive at first sight in the noble generosity and native courtesy which is always ascribed to this bold outlaw, but still we must not forget, in our admiration of such qualities, that he *was* an outlaw notwithstanding, living in open defiance of laws both human and divine, and, if tradition be correct, hesitating not to shed the blood of his fellow-man when his own security demanded it. You know, Herbert, the divine law requires us to be "subject unto the powers

that be," to "render unto all their dues," and not only to "serve God," but also to "honour the king." All these laws your forest hero was living in open violation of, and therefore was more deserving of censure than admiration; and whatever charm there may seem to be in the unfettered woodland life he led, depend upon it, my dear boy, if you could be initiated in it, you would soon pine after the quiet joys of domestic life. But it is time we turned our attention from this renowned freebooter to the sylvan haunts he is said to have occupied, as well as to the now busy towns of Nottinghamshire. Willie, however, may first point out the boundaries of the county.

WILLIE.

Nottinghamshire is bounded on the north by Yorkshire and Lincolnshire; on the east by Lincolnshire; on the south by Leicestershire; and on the west by Derbyshire.

KATE.

The length of the county is about fifty miles, and its greatest breadth nearly twenty-five miles. Like Northamptonshire, it is noted for the number of gentlemen's seats which are scattered over it.

WILLIE.

The chief rivers of Nottinghamshire are the Trent and the Idle.

HERBERT.

Nottinghamshire was anciently inhabited by a British tribe called Coritani, of which some few memorials have been discovered. It contains many evidences of its having been in the possession of the Romans, and was included in that division of the island which they termed Flavia Cæsariensis; it subsequently formed part of the Saxon kingdom of Mercia.

KATE.

How many of the counties we have noticed were included in that old Roman province called Flavia Cæsariensis!

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; the district so called comprehended nearly all the centre

of the island, as well as the greater part of its eastern boundary. This county is supposed to have possessed three Roman stations, but were it not for a celebrated Roman road, called the Foss-way, on which they are said to have stood, and the antiquities brought to light by excavation, there would be nothing in the places to lead to the idea of their former grandeur.

MARION.

A considerable portion of this county appears at one time to have been forest land. What is now left of the ancient royal forest of Sherwood, in which Robin Hood is said to have played so conspicuous a part, lies towards the western border.

WILLIE.

I suppose Sherwood Forest has been built upon of late years, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Many parts of it have been enclosed, and brought under cultivation, and it is now adorned by several gentlemen's parks and seats. There are but few of the ancient forest trees remaining, but of those few, one venerable oak in Clipstone Park deserves our notice. It is called "The Parliament Oak," and derives its name from a parliament having been held under it by Edward the First, during the time he kept his court at a hunting seat he held at Clipstone.

HERBERT.

Then Clipstone Park was enclosed at the time that Robin Hood was monarch of Sherwood?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; it was made a park before the Conquest, and is considered the oldest in England. Now, Willie, tell us the name of the chief town in this county, and for what branches of industry it is chiefly celebrated.

WILLIE.

Nottingham, near the river Trent. It is celebrated for the manufacture of stockings and lace.

HERBERT.

The town of Nottingham is a place of great antiquity, and is believed by some to be of British origin. It is built upon a rock of soft sandstone, and derives its Saxon name, Snottengaham, from a number of caverns hollowed out of the rock, and supposed to have been used as dwellings by the original inhabitants: the Saxon word *snottenga* signifying a cave, and *ham* a town.

KATE.

Is Nottingham thought to have been a Roman station ?

MRS. LESLIE.

Such was the opinion of Dr. Gale, an antiquary of the seventeenth century ; but I do not think it has been generally adopted. At any rate, Nottingham was a place of considerable importance under the Saxons, and was twice taken by the Danes, who kept possession of it until they were conquered, in 842, by Edmund the eighth Saxon sovereign of England.

MARION.

Nottingham Castle, which has been the scene of several interesting historical events, was, I believe, erected by William the Conqueror.

MRS. LESLIE.

It was ; you know William was no favourite with his subjects, and soon after the Conquest this mighty castle was erected on the top of an almost perpendicular rock, for the purpose, it is said, of keeping the townspeople in awe. The command of it was given to William Peverel, a Norman noble, who in the time of the Conqueror owned no less than one hundred and sixty-two manors in England.

KATE.

Well ! Really I should think William could have had no conscience at all ! He seems to have thought about nothing else but enriching himself and his nobles, and not to have cared at all how the poor Saxons fared.

HERBERT.

The town and castle of Nottingham was the scene of hostilities

in the contest between Maude and her cousin Stephen. The town was taken by assault by the partisans of Maude, and many of its inhabitants were massacred.

MARION.

The event which gained the greatest fame for this ancient castle was the capture of Roger De Mortimer, Earl of March, the wicked favourite of Isabella, wife of Edward the Second. After the deposition and cruel murder of the unfortunate king at Berkeley Castle in Gloucestershire, at the instigation of the queen and Mortimer, they took up their abode at Nottingham Castle, whither they were pursued by the young king, Edward the Third, who vowed to be revenged on his father's murderers. By the assistance of the governor, the king and his officers gained admittance through a subterranean passage, leading through the rock to the interior of the castle, and forced their way to the apartment occupied by Mortimer. Notwithstanding the entreaties of the queen, who implored her son to have pity on her "gentle Mortimer," he was seized, tried for treason, and shortly after executed at Tyburn. The subterranean passage which afforded the entrance to the castle is still called "Mortimer's hole."

MRS. LESLIE.

The names of several streets in the immediate vicinity of the rock also perpetuate the same event—such as Edward Street, Mortimer Street, Isabella Street, &c. There are several historical recollections connected with the castle which we can only glance at, as the manufactures of the town demand our notice. It was in Nottingham Castle that David Bruce was some time confined after his defeat at Durham, by Queen Philippa; when, to beguile the tedious hours of his captivity, he is said to have graven the scenes representing our Saviour's passion upon the dungeon walls. From hence Richard the Third marched with his troops to the fatal battle of Bosworth Field; and it was here that Charles the First, with great pomp and ceremony, set up his standard when the contest commenced between himself and his parliament.

KATE.

Oh! yes; and I remember it was blown down by a very high wind, and could not be raised again for several days, which trifling circumstance greatly dispirited the king and his followers.

HERBERT.

Trifling as the circumstance was in itself, I suppose the poor king thought it ominous of his future fortunes. I am sure what followed fully confirmed his worst forebodings. Nottingham Castle was soon after taken by the Parliamentarians, and during Cromwell's time almost demolished.

WILLIE.

Are there any ruins left, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

The remains of a building are still to be seen on the castle hill, but they are not the ruins of the ancient castle. After the Restoration of Charles the Second, what remained of it was pulled down, and a modern mansion built by the Duke of Newcastle. This also has been nearly destroyed.

KATE.

And I should think it would be quite as well if it were destroyed entirely. I have read about the ruins of Nottingham Castle, and have been thinking how much I should like to see the ancient place, with its subterranean passages and winding staircase; but I should not care at all about seeing what is left of the modern mansion.

MRS. LESLIE.

Your veneration for the remnants of antiquity may still be gratified, my dear, if ever you should pay a visit to Nottingham, as many of the subterranean passages still exist, and there are some chambers in the rock well deserving notice. But it is quite time that we directed our attention to the modern and more practical objects of interest for which this town is celebrated.

KATE.

Of course you mean its manufactures?

MRS. LESLIE.

I do. We have been told that the principal of these are hosiery and lace, but the silk trade is also carried on at Nottingham, and I am informed that it has greatly increased of late. Can you tell us, Willie, what kind of stockings are made at Nottingham?

WILLIE.

Cotton stockings chiefly, mamma, but silk ones are also made there.

MRS. LESLIE.

And have you any idea how stockings are made, Willie?

WILLIE.

I have seen the women in the village knitting stockings, many and many a time, but I know they are not all made in that manner. Your stockings and my sisters' are much finer and whiter than any I have seen the villagers knitting. I suppose they are made by a machine.

MRS. LESLIE.

They are; by a machine called a stocking-frame; but before the invention of that machine, all the stockings that were made were knitted by hand, which was a very tedious process.

KATE.

You forget, mamma, that the first stockings we read of which were worn in England were made of pieces of cloth sewn together.

MRS. LESLIE.

I had not forgotten, Katie, but I was speaking of the kind similar to those worn at the present day. I dare say Herbert can give us some account of the invention of the stocking-frame.

HERBERT.

Like most valuable inventions, the honour of it has been disputed, some maintaining that it was brought from France, and others contending for its being an invention of our own. It is, however, now generally believed that it was invented by a young man named William Lee, a native of the village of Woodborough

in this county, and a graduate of St. John's College, Cambridge. There is quite an interesting little story related of the circumstances which led him to turn his attention to the subject.

KATE.

Pray repeat it, Herbert.

HERBERT.

Although he had received a university education, it appears that Lee was possessed of little or no fortune, and having been expelled from the University for marrying contrary to its statutes, he soon fell into very needy circumstances. His young wife, anxious to be really a "help meet" for her husband, endeavoured to add to their scanty income by knitting stockings, which art had then been practised in England about twenty-five years, and Lee, who seems to have had a mechanical turn of mind, as he sat watching her plying her needles from day to day, and saw what was the result, formed an idea that it would be possible to construct a loom which would do the work in a much more expeditious manner. He tried, and succeeded, and William Lee's stocking-frame is considered the parent of all those now in use in Nottingham, which are still, notwithstanding modern improvements, worked upon the same principle as the one he constructed at the end of the sixteenth century.

KATE.

I hope he received a good reward for his clever invention.

MRS. LESLIE.

I am sorry to tell you that the discovery, which has so greatly benefited his country, brought neither prosperity nor happiness to himself and family. The stocking knitters feared it would destroy their occupation, and raised all the opposition to it in their power, and King James the First, in whose presence he is said to have woven a pair of stockings by his loom, gave him neither assistance nor encouragement, on the plea that it would deprive the industrious poor of the means by which they earned their daily bread. Under these depressing circumstances Lee carried his useful invention to France, whither he was accompanied by nine

journeymen ; but disturbances breaking out in that country, his success was impeded, and after suffering great distress, he died in Paris of a broken heart.

MARION.

And what became of his industrious young wife ? I hoped to have heard that she afterwards lived in circumstances more suitable to her husband's position. Knitting stockings for a living was rather a degrading employment for the wife of a University graduate !

MRS. LESLIE.

Not degrading, my dear ; nothing really degrades but the adoption of what is base and dishonourable. Little as is known of the wife of William Lee, I have always been inclined to consider her a person of superior mind and principles, from the very circumstance that she *did* knit stockings to improve her husband's straitened circumstances ; that, no doubt, being the only source of emolument open to her. As to what became of her, I can only say that I never met with any account in which she was mentioned after her husband's death. I fear, however, that she did not benefit much by his ingenious invention. Seven of the workmen whom Lee took with him to Paris, returned to England, and set up the stocking manufacture in a village at a little distance from Nottingham.

KATE.

Now, mamma, I have found out why you wished us to notice Nottinghamshire before Leicestershire. Both counties are noted for the manufacture of stockings, but it is more interesting to speak first of the one which makes us acquainted with the invention of the stocking-frame.

HERBERT.

I was much surprised to find that William Lee's stocking-frame laid the foundation of lace-making by machinery, for which Nottingham is also celebrated. It is said that about the year 1770, a frame-work knitter of Nottingham formed the idea of trying to produce an imitation of the pillow lace, of which his wife's cap was made, by his stocking-frame, which he imagined he

could do by making a slight alteration in the action. But little is known of the success which attended *his* efforts, but at any rate he gave the idea to others, and after various improvements in machinery, Nottingham became as famous for lace as it had long been for hosiery. The application of steam power has of late years greatly increased the manufacture.

MRS. LESLIE.

It is perfectly astonishing to see the perfection to which the machine-made lace of Nottingham is now brought. I saw a veil the other day, which in texture, design, and workmanship, I think could scarcely be surpassed.

KATE.

And was all the lace that was made in England made on pillows, like that we saw being made in Buckinghamshire, until less than a century ago?

MRS. LESLIE.

All that was *made* in England was made in that manner, but not all that was *worn* in England. Much was imported from Brussels, Valenciennes, Dresden, and Mechlin, which towns have been for centuries celebrated for the elegance and fineness of their lace; but it was much too costly for the use of any but ladies of distinction. There is still, I fear, a prejudice existing in the minds of the higher classes against the use of home-made fabrics, but I trust whenever it is seen that our own manufacturers can compete with foreign ones, such an injurious prejudice will be overcome, and encouragement given to British industry and skill.

WILLIE.

I suppose Nottingham has a very large number of inhabitants?

MRS. LESLIE.

Its population is nearly 60,000. Before we leave this town, Marion, I think you can mention a poet whose youthful productions have often surprised and delighted you?

MARION.

You mean Henry Kirke White, mamma, who was born at

Nottingham in 1785. He was the son of a butcher, and from his infancy manifested an extraordinary love for learning. At the age of fourteen, after having received an ordinary education, he was placed with a stocking weaver, his constitution being considered too delicate for his father's occupation. After a time he entered the office of an attorney, where he devoted his leisure hours to the study of Latin and Greek, and at length, through the generosity of some gentlemen who thought highly of his talents, he was admitted to St. John's College, Cambridge, where he applied himself so incessantly to study, that his health became impaired, and he died of consumption in the twenty-second year of his age. His poems, some of which were written at a very early age, were collected after his death, and with some letters and other fragments published by Robert Southey under the title of "The Remains of Henry Kirke White."

HERBERT.

I suppose the ancient town of Newark-upon-Trent is the next that claims our notice ?

KATE.

It seems rather strange that an *ancient* town should be called *Newark* !

MRS. LESLIE.

And yet I have heard its name brought forward as an evidence of its antiquity. Dr. Stukely, a high authority in such matters asserts that "our Saxon ancestors of *later* times always used the termination *wark* in the same sense as, immediately after the departure of the Romans, they did that of *ceastre*, signifying thereby a fortification built upon Roman foundations." The town was called Newark in the time of Edward the Confessor, to distinguish it from the buildings of older date. But what can you tell me of its history since the Conquest ?

HERBERT.

In the early part of the twelfth century, the castle, of which some beautiful ruins still exist, was built, or, as some think, a previous structure was strengthened and enlarged by Alexander,

bishop of Lincoln. It soon came into possession of the crown. King John, after his contest with the barons, died at Newark Castle in 1216, of a fever brought on, it is supposed, by fatigue and anxiety. In the civil wars of Charles the First, the inhabitants of Newark were staunch Royalists, and zealously supported the cause of the king.

MARION.

I find Newark has a population of more than 11,000, but I do not think it participates much in the manufacturing industry of the county.

MRS. LESLIE.

No; its principal trade consists in malt, hops, and corn. Its manufactures are very inconsiderable. The parish church of Newark is one of the most beautiful in the kingdom.

MARION.

Mansfield, which is another town of Nottinghamshire, is delightfully situated on the borders of Sherwood Forest. It is a very ancient place, and has furnished many evidences of Roman occupation. The foundations of a Roman villa and a beautiful tessellated pavement have been discovered, and several tumuli on being opened were found to contain calcined bones, warlike weapons, coins, and other ancient articles.

MRS. LESLIE.

The proximity of Mansfield to Sherwood Forest made it a favourite retreat of some of the early kings of England, who frequently resided there to enjoy the pleasures of the chase. At the present time it derives its principal importance from the manufacture of cotton goods, hosiery, &c. There are several cotton and other mills in the parish, which contains about 11,000 inhabitants.

KATE.

Worksop is described as a market-town pleasantly situated in a valley near Sherwood Forest. Mary Queen of Scots was confined there for a short time, in the sixteenth year of her captivity in England.

MRS. LESLIE.

Southwell is a town eminently interesting to the antiquary, not only on account of its nearness to a supposed Roman station, but also for its magnificent collegiate church, which exhibits an almost endless variety of architecture, and is undoubtedly the finest ecclesiastical structure in the county. The original edifice is supposed to have been founded about the year 630, by Paulinus, an Italian monk, one of the first missionaries to Britain, and whose labours were contemporary with those of Augustine. Southwell is not much referred to in history, but it was here that Charles the First surrendered himself to the Scots, after forming the unfortunate resolution of relying upon their fidelity and affection.

MARION.

We have met with very few monastic remains lately.

MRS. LESLIE.

And yet, before the dissolution of monastic houses, there were many of great beauty and rich endowments in this county; but those of which any remnants are left have been mostly converted into modern mansions. Newstead Abbey, however, though renovated, is not modernised, and still retains plain marks of its ancient celebrity. It is five miles from Mansfield, and nine from Nottingham, and, from its beauty and antiquity, is considered one of the chief attractions of the neighbourhood. I think we have now noticed all the principal places and events connected with Nottinghamshire, and I have only to request you to direct your attention to Leicestershire in the interval which will precede our next conversation on England as it was and is.

CONVERSATION XXIII.



LEICESTERSHIRE.

SUBJECTS:—Aspect of County.—Charnwood Forest.—Bradgate Park.—Lady Jane Grey.—Boundaries of County.—Size.—Chief Rivers.—Mineral Produce.—Ancient Inhabitants.—Norman Arrogance.—Industrial Resources of County.—Leicester a Roman Town.—Ancient Name of River Soar.—Leicester under the Dominion of Saxons.—Insecure Position of Norman Nobles.—Leicester Abbey.—Cardinal Wolsey.—Salutary Reflections.—Leicester during Civil Wars.—Jewry Wall.—Evidence of Roman Workmanship.—Former Hatred of Jews.—Loughborough.—Hinckley.—Ashby de la Zouch.—Melton Mowbray.—Lutterworth.—John Wycliffe.—Bosworth Field.—Union of rival Houses of York and Lancaster.—Belvoir Castle.

“WHAT a number of hills there are in Leicestershire!” observed Willie, as he ran his finger over the apparently undulating surface of a map of the county which lay before him.

MRS. LESLIE.

The county is almost everywhere pleasingly diversified by gently rising hills, certainly, my dear, but there are no lofty heights, as in some of the other counties we have noticed. Bardon Hill, which, I believe, is the most elevated spot in Leicestershire, is but 853 feet above the level of the sea.

WILLIE.

It appears to me that must be a very high hill. Indeed, quite a mountain, mamma.

MRS. LESLIE.

Not a mountain, certainly, Willie, nor yet a very high hill in

comparison with many others. Skiddaw, in Cumberland, is more than 3000 feet above the sea ; and even some parts of the Malvern Hills rise to a height of 1200 or 1800 feet ; Bardon Hill, however, is a celebrated spot in this county, on account of the extensive prospect it commands.

MARION.

A considerable portion of Leicestershire, I believe, was once forest land.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes ; the forest of Charnwood or Charley, which occupied the western part of the county, was nearly twenty miles in extent, and though now entirely bare, was once so densely wooded, that I have heard it said a squirrel might have been hunted several miles without its ever touching the ground. There is a melancholy interest attached to Bradgate Park, a picturesque retreat on the border of this ancient forest, from its having been the birthplace of the accomplished and unfortunate Lady Jane Grey. You are all so well acquainted with her brief history that we will not enter on it now, but at once direct our attention to the boundaries and size of Leicestershire.

KATE.

Leicestershire is bounded on the north by Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, on the east by Lincolnshire and Rutland, on the south by Northamptonshire and Warwickshire, and on the west by Warwickshire and Derbyshire. Its greatest length is from north-east to south-west, and in that direction is about forty-four miles ; its greatest breadth is about forty miles.

WILLIE.

The chief rivers of Leicestershire are the Soar, the Swift, the Welland, and the Avon. Does this county possess any mines, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

It has a few collieries, which produce about 632,000 tons of coal per annum ; but that, I believe, is its only mineral production.

HERBERT.

Leicestershire, like the last two counties we noticed, is thought to have been anciently in the possession of the British tribe Coritani, and, on its subjection to the Romans, to have been included in the extensive district of Flavia Cæsariensis. During the Saxon Heptarchy it formed part of the kingdom of Mercia, and after the Danish invasion was comprehended in the territories granted by Alfred to Guthrum, on the conclusion of their treaty of peace.

MRS. LESLIE.

The history of Leicestershire, for a considerable period after the Norman Conquest, affords additional evidence, were any wanting, of the tyranny and rapacity of William the Conqueror. The vanquished Anglo-Saxons and Danes were almost universally deprived of their estates to enrich his Norman followers, or, if in any instances they were permitted to retain them, it was only on condition of becoming feudal vassals to the haughty Norman nobles. But now let us notice the present state of the county, and see in what its importance and prosperity consist.

KATE.

Leicestershire is both an agricultural and a manufacturing county. Its pastures are well adapted for grazing purposes, and the farmers pay particular attention to the rearing of cattle and sheep. The Leicestershire sheep are celebrated for the large quantities of wool they produce, which is converted into woollen hosiery, the principal manufacture of the county, and the one for which Leicester, the county town, is chiefly famed.

WILLIE.

I suppose Leicester was a Roman town, mamma? I think you have told us it was the Romans who gave the name to all the places which end in *cester*.

MRS. LESLIE.

You are partly right, and partly wrong, Willie. There is no doubt that Leicester was occupied by the Romans, not only because its name denotes such a fact, but also because many

of their works have been found there; but the names of places ending in *cester* were not given by the Romans, but by the Saxons who succeeded them, and were only applied to such places as had been fortified by the Romans. Do you understand it now?

WILLIE.

Yes, mamma, and whenever I hear of a place whose name ends in *cester*, I shall remember that it was called so by the Saxons, and that it shows that the Romans had lived there before them.

HERBERT.

Well done, Willie! I shouldn't wonder if these conversations were to prove the first steps towards your becoming a learned archæologist!

MRS. LESLIE.

In speaking of the names of places, we must remember that they have not been handed down to us exactly the same as they were given so many centuries before. They have become changed or corrupted into something like their former names. Thus Leicester was formerly called *Leir-ceastre*, which signified a fortification on the river *Leir*. The town, you will observe, gives name to the county.

KATE.

But Leicester is built upon the banks of the river *Soar*. Is it not, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

The *Soar* was anciently called the *Leir*. Before we proceed further, perhaps Herbert can mention some evidences of Roman occupation which Leicester has furnished?

HERBERT.

Tesselated pavements have been excavated at different times, but are not considered equal in design or workmanship to those found in some other parts of the kingdom. Roman coins and pottery have also been found; but the most curious relics of antiquity are, part of an old Roman wall, called the "*Jewry Wall*," and a Roman milestone discovered on the *Foss-way* in 1771, with an inscription sufficiently legible to determine the name of the station, *Ratae*, on the site of which Leicester now stands.

MARION.

Leicester is said to have been a place of considerable importance during the Saxon power in Britain, and to have been ceded to the Danes by Alfred, when it became one of the great Danish burghs. It was afterwards re-taken by Ethelfleda, the noble lady of the Mercians, by whom it was enlarged and fortified. It possessed a mint during the time of some of the latter Saxon kings, and was altogether a wealthy and flourishing town.

HERBERT.

I am glad to meet again with our old acquaintance Ethelfleda. I like her for her enterprising spirit, though she would have been too much of an amazon for our days.

WILLIE.

I suppose I need not ask what became of the town after the Norman Conquest, for no doubt William either took it himself or gave it to some of his followers.

MRS. LESLIE.

You are quite right in your opinion, Willie. The town was added to the royal estates, the castle taken from its rightful owners, and a stronger and larger one erected to overawe and keep the people from attempting to regain their lost possessions. This mighty fortress was given by William to a Norman nobleman named Robert de Beaumont, whose eldest son Robert, surnamed the Hunchbacked, founded the famous abbey at Leicester, of which you have heard.

KATE.

I do not at all envy those Norman noblemen, on whom William bestowed the estates of England, for I should think they were so much disliked, that they must have been almost afraid to venture out of their gloomy castles.

MRS. LESLIE.

Such, I assure you, was the case. A Norman nobleman's castle was his principal defence, and one which he seldom quitted without a powerful body-guard. The oppressed Anglo-Saxons far

exceeded the Normans in numbers, and might after all have overcome them, had not the invaders shut themselves up in those mighty strongholds which their superior skill in architecture and fortification enabled them to erect.

MARION.

The town of Leicester does not appear to have played any conspicuous part in the history of our country. I suppose the death of Cardinal Wolsey in its ancient abbey is the principal event which has contributed to its fame ?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes ; the fall from power, disgrace, and death of that arrogant and haughty prelate, immortalised as those events have been by the pen of Shakespeare, have given an interest to the place which we in vain look for in any other subject of its annals, and which the wreck of all that was material has failed to diminish. You are no doubt aware that Leicester Abbey has long been levelled with the dust.

MARION.

But there are some remains of it still, are there not ?

MRS. LESLIE.

Not a fragment of that once magnificent structure now exists above ground, even to mark its site, although that has recently been accurately arrived at by the discoveries made by excavation. The ruin which usually goes by the name of Leicester Abbey is a portion of a mansion erected near it in the reign of Elizabeth. What remained of the abbey after the dissolution of monastic houses, was entirely demolished during the civil wars. Do you remember, my dear, the circumstance which led to the downfall of England's proudest primate, and how it was he sought a last asylum within the abbey walls ?

MARION.

Yes, mamma. Wolsey, who had been raised from an humble station in life to a position inferior only to that of royalty, incurred the displeasure of his sovereign, Henry the Eighth, by the delay of which he was said to be guilty in procuring the king's divorce

from Catharine of Arragon. The courtiers of the king, who had long hated Wolsey for his pride and presumption, and been jealous of his influence over their royal master, no sooner perceived he was declining in favour than they resolved to accomplish his destruction. He was soon dismissed from court, deprived of the most important offices he held in the state, and, after having his princely mansion in London seized by the king, was obliged to retire to Cawood in Yorkshire; but even there Henry's resentment followed his fallen favourite, whom he caused to be arrested on a charge of high treason, and sent a commission with instructions to convey him to the Tower. While on his journey, Wolsey was seized with an illness, the result, it is supposed, of anxiety of mind, and was compelled to stop at Leicester Abbey, on entering which he exclaimed to the abbot who came out to meet him, "Father Abbot, I am comē to leave my bones among you."

KATE.

That was quite a prophetic speech.

MRS. LESLIE.

It needed no prophetic spirit to make it, my dear. The feeling of disease too truly told him that the hour of his dissolution was at hand. There is a touching and minute account of his last hours in a narrative of the life of Wolsey, written by George Cavendish, one of the gentlemen of his household. His dying exclamation to Sir William Kingston conveys a solemn lesson to us all: "If I had served my God as diligently as I have served the king, He would not have given me over in my grey hairs!" What a striking comment on the words of Holy Writ; "It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in princes." We are, my dear children, far removed from the snares and temptations which beset the path of Wolsey, but depend upon it, if we suffer *any* object to interfere with the supreme regard we owe to God, we not only endanger our eternal interests, but such an object is very likely to become a fruitful source of misery in this present life.

KATE.

In the civil wars of Charles the First, the town of Leicester was

at first taken by the king, but his triumph was of short duration ; the decisive battle of Naseby was won by the parliament a fortnight afterwards and Leicester, was immediately re-taken.

MARION.

In speaking of the antiquities of Leicester, Herbert mentioned the "Jewry Wall." I have seen a plate of that curious-looking pile of ancient masonry, with its broken arches and rugged surface ; but old, and frowning as it looks, I can scarcely believe it can have stood ever since the time of the Romans.

MRS. LESLIE.

Archæologists are of opinion that such is undoubtedly the fact, and that it originally formed part of the temple of Janus, one of the heathen divinities of the Romans, from whom our word January was derived. It is further conjectured, from the writings of an ancient historian, that this temple remained until the unquiet reign of Henry the Second, when it was destroyed during the siege of the town ; and it is also supposed that the adjoining ancient church of St. Nicholas was erected on the ruins, and partly from the materials of the heathen temple. The fact of Roman tiles being observable in the oldest parts of that venerable structure, at any rate gives an air of probability to the conjecture.

HERBERT.

It would not be a solitary instance, even in England, of a Christian church rising from the ruins of a heathen temple ; Westminster Abbey, you know, was built upon the site of a temple previously dedicated to Apollo.

WILLIE.

Why is that old wall at Leicester called the "Jewry Wall," mamma ? I remember there is a street in London called "Old Jewry."

MRS. LESLIE.

The term "Jewry" was formerly applied to that part of a town which was occupied by Jews. The hatred of Christians towards that unhappy race was at one time so great, that they would not suffer them to live in the same part of the town with themselves, but compelled them to keep to the most unhealthy

and inconvenient district, which in consequence was called the "Jewry," or "Jews' district." The Jewry Wall at Leicester no doubt received its name from being on the spot to which the Jews were at one time compelled to confine themselves; but in the reign of Henry the Third, so great was the antipathy of the people of Leicester to those poor outcasts, that they were driven from the place altogether, and a law was passed forbidding any Jew or Jewess ever to dwell within the town again.

KATE.

But surely such a law is not in existence now, mamma!

MRS. LESLIE.

I understand that the charter providing for the expulsion of the Jews which was granted to the inhabitants of Leicester by the celebrated Simon de Montfort, is still extant, but happily the spirit of toleration and religious liberty now so generally prevails, that no one would think of availing himself of such an unchristianlike *privilege*.

HERBERT.

And if such a spirit of intolerance should break out, I will venture to say parliament would quickly take the matter up, and the disgraceful charter at once would be repealed.

WILLIE.

How many inhabitants are there in Leicester now, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

The population is about 60,000. The principal manufacture is that of worsted hosiery.

KATE.

The flourishing market-town of Loughborough is the second in importance and population in this county. It is pleasantly situated near the river Soar, and derives its chief prosperity from the manufacture of hosiery and bobbin net. It contains nearly 11,000 inhabitants.

MRS. LESLIE.

I dare say Willie can mention some other towns of Leicestershire?

WILLIE.

Hinckley, Ashby de la Zouch, Melton Mowbray, and Lutterworth.

HERBERT.

All those towns partake more or less of the staple manufacture of the county, worsted hosiery. Ashby de la Zouch and Melton Mowbray are also noted for their cattle markets, and the latter place is greatly distinguished by the "Melton Hunt," which attracts sportsmen from all parts of the kingdom. Lutterworth is celebrated for having been the residence of John Wycliffe, the forerunner of the Reformation.

MARION.

Market Harborough and Market Bosworth are also towns of Leicestershire ; the former is noted for its antiquity, and the latter from being near Bosworth Field, where Richard the Third lost his life in a battle with the Earl of Richmond, who succeeded him on the throne as Henry the Seventh. The Battle of Bosworth Field was the last contest between the rival houses of York and Lancaster.

KATE.

I quite forget how that long quarrel was made up. I know Henry the Seventh was a Lancastrian ; but was there no claimant to the crown belonging to the house of York ?

MRS. LESLIE.

I am surprised you have forgotten, that to maintain himself firmly on the throne, Henry thought it expedient to marry the heiress of the House of York, the princess Elizabeth, daughter of Edward the Fourth. Not being based upon mutual affection, their union proved far from a happy one ; but it nevertheless was a blessing to the nation, as it put an end to those dreadful civil wars, which had desolated the country for nearly forty years. Henry the Seventh was succeeded by his son Henry the Eighth, in whom the rival claims of the houses of York and Lancaster were united, his mother being of the house of York, his father of that of Lancaster. Since his reign those unhappy distinctions have been entirely unknown.

KATE.

I once saw a fine painting of Belvoir Castle, in this county. It was a noble-looking place, standing on a very high hill. I suppose it was a Norman castle, as the followers of the Conqueror are said to have built a great many in Leicestershire to keep the Saxons in subjection.

MRS. LESLIE.

The present castle of Belvoir, which is one of the most magnificent structures in England, was not built until the middle of the seventeenth century, but the lofty mount on which it stands was formerly occupied by a Norman fortress erected by Robert de Toden, the standard-bearer to the Conqueror. The dukes of Rutland, who have possessed the castle for many generations, I believe, trace back their ancestry to that Norman nobleman.

MARION.

Has Belvoir Castle been the scene of any important historical events?

MRS. LESLIE.

The ancient castle suffered considerably at the commencement of the wars between the Yorkists and Lancastrians; and it also sustained a four months' siege, during the contest between Charles the First and his parliament. On the conclusion of the civil wars, the old building was demolished, and after the Restoration the present noble structure was erected.

WILLIE.

I should not mind living in an old castle now, because I could go in and out when I liked; but I should much rather live in ever such a poor cottage, and have my liberty, than be obliged to be shut up as the Norman noblemen were.

MRS. LESLIE.

I quite agree with you, my dear. Let us endeavour to be thankful for the blessings we enjoy, and use that liberty which is so dear to us, by striving to do all the good we can among our fellow-creatures, with whom we so freely mingle. Lincolnshire is the next county that demands our notice.

CONVERSATION XXIV.

LINCOLNSHIRE.

SUBJECTS:—Principal Seat of Danish Immigration.—Influence on Names of Places.—Boundaries of County.—Size.—Early Inhabitants.—Ancient Divisions of County.—Character of Soil.—Draining of Fens.—Abundance of Wild Fowl.—Principal Rivers.—City of Lincoln.—Its great Antiquity.—Newport Gate.—Hermin Street.—Depredations of Danes.—Danish Sovereigns of England.—Norman Injustice and Rapacity.—Ancient Importance of Lincoln.—Historical Reminiscences.—Louis, Dauphin of France.—Cathedral.—Hugh de Grenoble.—Ancient Magnificence of Cathedral.—Trade of City.—Boston.—Destructive Fire by Incendiary.—Church of St. Botolph.—Tutelar Saints.—John Fox.—Grantham.—Sir Isaac Newton.—Early Predilections.—Original Destination.—Important Discoveries.—Religious Character.—Honour paid to his Remains.—First Success of Cromwell.—Stamford.—Grimsby, and other Towns.—Croyland Abbey.—Sale of Indulgences.—John Tetsel.—Martin Luther.—Glorious Reformation.

“How many places there are in Lincolnshire with names ending in ‘*by*,’ mamma!” said Willie to his mother, as she joined her children for conversation on that county.

“I am glad to find you have been studying your map so attentively as to observe that peculiarity,” was the reply. “Would you like me to tell you how it is so many places in this county have that termination?”

WILLIE.

Oh! yes, if you please, mamma.

MRS. LESLIE.

You must bear in mind, then, that “*bye*” is a Danish word, signifying a town. We have often talked, you know, about the

Danes, and of their coming over and plundering and burning the towns of this island ; and, at last, of Alfred the Great making an agreement with Guthrum, the Danish chief, by which they were allowed to settle here, on condition of their leading quiet and peaceable lives.

WILLIE.

Yes, I know all about that, mamma ; and now I expect you are going to tell me that the names of the places which end in "by" were given by the Danes.

MRS. LESLIE.

You are quite right, Willie. As soon as the Danes were established in this country, they began to change the Saxon names of the towns and villages in which they settled to Danish ones ; and as Lincolnshire was one of the principal places which they occupied, we can easily account for the frequent use of the Danish word for town. But, in our notice of this county, we must go back a few centuries, and see by whom it was inhabited before the Danes set foot upon the shores of England. Katie, however, had better first tell us the boundaries and size of Lincolnshire.

KATE.

Lincolnshire is bounded on the north by Yorkshire, from which it is separated by the Humber, the largest river in England ; on the east by the North Sea, or German Ocean ; on the south by Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire, and Rutland ; and on the west by Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, and Yorkshire. It is the largest county in England, with the exception of Yorkshire, and is about seventy-five miles long, and in some places fifty broad.

MARION.

This is another county which appears to have been inhabited by the Coritani ; and, on becoming subject to the Romans, to have formed part of the province called Flavia Cæsariensis. During the Saxon Heptarchy, it was included in the kingdom of Mercia.

HERBERT.

From very ancient times Lincolnshire has been divided into three districts, termed Lindsey, Kesteven, and Holland. This county

everywhere bears testimony to its having been occupied by the Romans ; and the name Lindsey, which is applied to by far the most extensive district, is derived from Lindum, the Latin name of Lincoln, which city was formerly a Roman colony.

KATE.

What can the term Kesteven mean ?

HERBERT.

The origin of that name seems to be unknown ; but that of Holland is plainly derived from the natural features of the district, which consists of hollow, or low fenny land, similar to the province of the Netherlands, which bears the same name.

MRS. LESLIE.

In a former county, you remember, we spoke of that large tract of fenny land called the Bedford Level, and of the many thousand acres which had been reclaimed, and brought under cultivation, by human industry and skill. The fens of Lincolnshire lie to the north of that district, and present a no less remarkable illustration of what can be accomplished by the combination of capital and practical science. Large tracts of land, which were formerly mere swamps and bogs, have been thoroughly drained and converted into teeming corn-fields and luxuriant pasture lands ; while many parts along the coast have been so embanked, as to reclaim many thousand acres which, at one time, were covered by the sea.

MARION.

I find the draining of the fens of Lincolnshire is supposed to have been commenced as early as the times of the Romans.

MRS. LESLIE.

There appears to be but little doubt that the Car-dyke and the Foss-dyke, two large drains, or, more correctly speaking, canals, were constructed by that enterprising people ; although the Foss-dyke is frequently attributed to Henry the First, from the circumstance of his having had it re-opened. By means of these canals, the waters from the uplands were conveyed to the

sea, instead of resting on the low flat land of the surrounding country. In the reigns of several succeeding monarchs, various improvements were effected in the condition of the fenny district; but it is especially during the present century that science has produced such great and glorious results in this once uncultivated region.

KATE.

The undrained fens of Lincolnshire still abound in wild fowl, do they not ?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, it is from this district that the London markets are principally supplied with wild ducks, teal, widgeons, and other water-fowl. Vast flocks of geese are also bred, not only for the table, but on account of their feathers and quills, which still form a considerable article of trade, although the demand for quills is much less now than before the invention of steel pens.

MARION.

If every one disliked steel pens as much as I do, quills would be as greatly in request as ever.

MRS. LESLIE.

I rather agree with you, my dear, although we must admit steel pens have the advantage of not requiring mending. But come, Willie, tell us the rivers of this county.

WILLIE.

The Witham, the Trent, the Ancholme, the Welland, and the Glen.

KATE.

The city of Lincoln is built upon a hill, at the foot of which runs the River Witham.

HERBERT.

This city must be full of interest to the archæologist, as he cannot fail to discover numerous traces of the Roman, Saxon, and Norman dominion. Its very name denotes it to have been a Roman colony, Lincoln being merely an abbreviation of Lindum Colonia. There appears to be no doubt that the city was originally

surrounded by a wall, having four gates of immense strength. One, called the Newport Gate, still remains, and is ranked among the most perfect and interesting specimens of Roman architecture in the kingdom.

KATE.

I cannot imagine how the Romans managed to build such massive structures without mortar to keep the stones together. I should have thought they would soon have fallen to decay, instead of remaining so many centuries exposed to wind and weather.

MRS. LESLIE.

Indeed, I am not architect enough to tell you the principles upon which their masonry was formed; but I believe they were extremely simple, notwithstanding its amazing durability. Do you know, Herbert, of any other Roman memento in the locality of Newport Gate?

HERBERT.

The very name of the street in which the Roman gateway stands is itself an evidence of its occupancy by the Romans, Hermin Street being one of their principal lines of road in this country. It extended the entire length of England, from Pevensey, in Sussex, to Berwick-upon-Tweed.

MARION.

It is said that the first Christian church in this part of the country was built in the Hermin Street, on the site now occupied by the little Church of St. Paul's.

HERBERT.

The Mint Wall is another monument of antiquity; and existing coins prove, beyond a doubt, that money was coined in Lincoln during the Roman, Saxon, Danish, and Norman governments.

MARION.

The city of Lincoln suffered greatly from the depredations of the Danes. As late as the year 1016, they were driven out of it by Edmund, son of Ethelred the Second.

KATE.

Why, that was long after the treaty between Alfred and Guthrum the Dane. I thought all their disputes were put an end to by that agreement.

MRS. LESLIE.

For several years England enjoyed comparative peace and tranquillity in consequence of Alfred's wise arrangement; but at length the encroaching Danes, not satisfied with having some of the best parts of the country given to them, determined to possess the whole, and were aided in their ambitious project by large bodies of their countrymen coming over to their assistance. Edmund, surnamed Ironsides, displayed great valour in the defence of his territories, and expelled the Danes from the city of Lincoln; but after all his exertions, he was at length compelled to divide the kingdom with Canute, who succeeded to the sovereignty of the whole upon the death of Edmund.

KATE.

If I remember right, the Danes did not long possess the crown of England.

MRS. LESLIE.

About twenty-five years, during which the throne was occupied by Canute, generally called the Great; and by his sons Harold and Hardicanute. Canute appears to have possessed many of the necessary qualifications for a great ruler; although, in the early part of his reign, he treated the vanquished Saxons with the utmost cruelty and barbarism. The reigns of his sons were short and inglorious, and that of the younger disgraced by tyranny and violence. At his death the Saxon power was again established in England, in the person of Edward the Confessor.

HERBERT.

The poor harassed Saxons did not long enjoy the position thus regained; for, in the succeeding reign, William the Conqueror landed on the coast of Sussex, defeated Harold at the battle of Hastings, and brought England under the Norman yoke.

MARION.

And a very heavy yoke it was to bear! In nearly every county we have noticed, we have had instances of William's rapacity and tyranny, and the one we are now considering is not an exception. Among the most interesting objects in the city of Lincoln are the ruins of a castle built by the Conqueror; and it is stated, that "one hundred and sixty-six mansions were destroyed to clear the ground for its erection, and seventy-four more were demolished to give it the advantage of standing alone."

HERBERT.

Well done, William! There is certainly nothing like doing a thing thoroughly, when one is about it.

KATE.

Lincoln must have been a large place, even at that time, if, after the destruction of so many mansions, there were any worth calling mansions left.

MRS. LESLIE.

At the time of the Domesday survey, it is said to have contained 1070 mansions or houses, and it is further described by a writer of that period as "one of the most populous cities of England, and a market for all kinds of goods coming either by land or water."

MARION.

Lincoln was one of the places which shared in the contest between Stephen and the Empress Maude. The empress was besieged in the castle by the king, but managed to escape before it surrendered. The castle afterwards came into possession of the partizans of Maude, at the head of whom was the Earl of Gloucester, one of the most powerful barons of the time, and after a desperate engagement the king was overthrown and taken prisoner. Our next historical notice relates to Henry the Second the, son of Maude, who came to Lincoln to be crowned after having had the ceremony performed in London.

KATE.

What could have been the reason of his being crowned twice, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

In times when the right of succession to the throne was uncertain and disputed, the coronation of a king was an act of the very first importance, establishing, as it did, his power and authority. Henry, on his accession, could scarcely have felt secure, after the severe struggle for the crown which had lasted so many years between his mother and Stephen; and it was probably to confirm his sovereignty, that the ceremony of his coronation was repeated at Lincoln after having been performed in London.

HERBERT.

In the civil wars during the reign of John, this city was besieged by Gilbert de Gaunt, one of the barons in the service of Louis the dauphin of France. The castle held out for the king, and Gaunt retreated on hearing of the approach of John, who with a large army was hastening to relieve it. The king, however, never reached the place, for, as he was crossing the marshes between Norfolk and Lincolnshire, the tide suddenly overwhelmed his army, the rear of which was lost, as well as his crown, treasures, and baggage of every description.

WILLIE.

Was the king drowned too, Herbert?

HERBERT.

No, he managed to escape, and got safe to Swineshead Abbey, in the Fens of Lincolnshire, but anxiety and grief brought on a fever, and it was with great difficulty he reached Newark, where he died a few days after.

KATE.

Then I suppose the city of Lincoln fell into the hands of that French baron after all. I forget, though, how it was that the dauphin of France came to invade this country; I thought John's quarrels were with his own subjects the barons, and not with any foreign foe.

MRS. LESLIE.

The barons were reduced to great extremities by the cruelty of John, who, in revenge for having Magna Charta extorted from

him, raised a foreign army and made war upon his own subjects, burning and slaughtering them at every step, so that they began to think any change in the government would be for the better, and therefore resorted to the very unwise measure of inviting Louis, eldest son of the king of France, to come to their assistance, promising to set him upon the throne of England. Thus invited, Louis landed on the coast of Kent, quickly took Rochester Castle, and for a time seemed to have every chance of success; but at length the barons began to think they had made a great mistake in promising allegiance to any foreign power; many therefore abandoned his standard, and joined the king. On the death of John, the city of Lincoln was again besieged by the French commander, when the Earl of Pembroke, regent to the young king, hastened to its rescue. A general battle ensued, in which many nobles and persons of rank on both sides were slain, and the earl succeeded in taking the city. Thus ended the pretensions of Louis to the English throne.

MARION.

We have not yet done with sieges and battles in connection with this city, for during the wars between Charles and his parliament, it was first besieged by one party, and then by the other, and ultimately came into the hands of the parliamentarians.

HERBERT.

Your mention of the parliamentarians reminds me of the cathedral, which is even said to approach to York Minster in magnificence. The original structure was built in the 11th century, by Remegius de Fescamp, and was partially destroyed by an earthquake in 1185. Hugh de Grenoble, a prelate of extraordinary piety, undertook to restore it to more than its former splendour; and it is related, that "so intent was the good bishop upon his pious enterprise, that he was wont to carry stones and mortar on his own shoulders for the use of the masons."

MARION.

That must have been an odd sight, indeed! We can scarcely fancy such a thing, notwithstanding the zeal displayed in our own day for the work of church restoration.

HERBERT.

The cathedral of Lincoln combines different styles of architecture the predominant being the Early English of a peculiarly rich and elegant character. The most magnificent part of the exterior is the west front, the towers and turrets of which, are strikingly beautiful. Lincoln cathedral was formerly greatly celebrated for the extraordinary splendour of its shrines. One of pure gold, another of silver, and an immense quantity of the most costly jewels, were taken away by Henry the Eighth at the Reformation. During the civil wars of Charles the First, the cathedral was further despoiled by Cromwell's army, and the bishop's palace, a most magnificent edifice, was entirely destroyed.

KATE.

I think the great bell of the cathedral, "Tom of Lincoln" as it is called, is worthy of a passing notice. It weighs five tons eight hundredweight, and is the third bell for size in the kingdom, being exceeded only by "Great Tom" of Oxford, and "Great Tom" of Exeter.

WILLIE.

Are there any manufactures carried on at Lincoln, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Not any of importance; its trade consists principally of corn and wool, which are sent in large quantities to Yorkshire and other places. The population of Lincoln is about 18,000.

HERBERT.

Boston is the largest seaport, and the most populous commercial town in the division of Holland. It contains upwards of 15,000 inhabitants and has a considerable foreign trade. Towards the end of the reign of Henry the Eighth, this town was set on fire by an incendiary named Robert Chamberlain, and it is said that the wealth of the inhabitants was so great, that melted gold and silver mingled in the streets, as at the destruction of Corinth.

WILLIE.

What did Chamberlain want to burn the town for?

HERBERT.

For the purpose of plunder. Boston was at that time inhabited by a great many wealthy merchants, and Chamberlain, who was a very wicked man, thought it would be a good opportunity to rob them while they were in such a state of alarm and confusion as a general fire would produce; so he put himself at the head of a band of ruffians disguised as monks and priests, and set fire to the town in different places, while the inhabitants were engaged in witnessing a tournament. Chamberlain was taken, and after confessing his crime was hanged, but his accomplices escaped.

MARION.

The chief object of interest in Boston is the church of St. Botolph, which was built in the fourteenth century, and dedicated to him as the tutelar saint of mariners. It is described as a "large, elegant, and interesting pile of architecture," and is said to be the largest church without cross aisles in the kingdom.

WILLIE.

What did Marion mean by a tutelar saint, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

One who was believed to have the especial guardianship of any person, and to have power to help him in any difficulty, and protect him in any danger. Countries, cities, and even trades, have had their supposed tutelar or patron saints. Thus St. George was said to be the tutelar saint of England, St. Patrick of Ireland, St. Crispin of shoemakers, St. Botolph of sailors, and a great many others, which I should not have patience to mention.

WILLIE.

I am sure, mamma, no one but God can take care of us in danger and help us in difficulty.

MRS. LESLIE.

Certainly not, Willie; and it is very foolish and wicked to trust to any other protection.

KATE.

Are not most of the churches in the Fens distinguished by their lofty spires?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; it is supposed they were so constructed to serve as land marks for travellers.

HERBERT.

I find John Fox, the Martyrologist, was a native of Boston.

KATE.

What, the good man who wrote "The Book of Martyrs?"

HERBERT.

Yes, Katie. He was born in 1517, and educated at Brazen Nose College, Oxford, from whence he removed to a fellowship in Magdalen College, but on his embracing the reformed religion was expelled in 1545. For several years he was engaged as private tutor in families of distinction; but in the reign of Mary, finding it necessary to leave the kingdom, he settled in Switzerland, where he maintained his family by correcting works for the press. His leisure time was employed in forming the plans for his "Acts and Monuments," or as you call that celebrated work, his "Book of Martyrs." On the accession of Elizabeth, he returned home, and published his great work in 1563.

MARION.

Grantham is an ancient town of Lincolnshire, with a population of 10,873. It was formerly celebrated for the number of its religious houses, some ruins of which may still be seen.

HERBERT.

The village of Woolsthorpe, near Grantham, was the birth-place of that illustrious philosopher Sir Isaac Newton, who was born at the Manor House, on Christmas Day, 1642. During his infancy it appears he was an exceedingly delicate and sickly child, but as he advanced to boyhood he gradually gained strength, and at the age of twelve was pursuing his studies at the grammar-school of Grantham.

KATE.

I think I have heard that he was not at all fond of learning when at school?

HERBERT.

I have read an anecdote of his school-days, in which he was described as very negligent, and generally low in his class; until one day being insulted by a boy above him, he determined to be revenged, not only by giving his antagonist a sound thrashing, but by a determination to outdo him in his studies. From that day he never rested till he was head boy in the school.

KATE.

I wonder how he came to devote his life to the study of such dry subjects as geometry and mathematics? I am not surprised at his taste for astronomy, there is something interesting in that.

MRS. LESLIE.

I expect, Katie, if you had inquired of the great philosopher himself, he would have told you, that your thinking such pursuits dry and uninteresting was a plain proof that you were unacquainted with them. I cannot tell you all the circumstances which gave bent to his genius, but his taste for investigation and experiment appears to have been first awakened by his boarding in the house of an apothecary during his school career at Grantham, and there having an opportunity of becoming acquainted with various chemical properties and preparations. He also evinced a great taste for mechanics about that time, and constructed many curious and ingenious pieces of mechanism, among which were a model of a water-mill, a water-clock, and several scientific toys.

MARION.

Have I not heard that Sir Isaac Newton was at first intended for a farmer?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, his mother, who was a widow with a small estate, determined to employ her son in its cultivation, but agricultural pursuits had no attraction for the young philosopher, and often when sent with a servant to the neighbouring market of Grantham to dispose of the farm produce, he would leave the man to sell his eggs and butter while he sat by the road side poring over some musty old book.

At length convinced that farming was not her son's vocation, his mother allowed him to follow the bent of his inclination, and in his eighteenth year he entered Trinity College, Cambridge, where he applied himself to his studies with such extraordinary ardour, that all the great discoveries which have immortalised his name were conceived and demonstrated during the first six years of his academic course.

MARION.

I know it was the falling of an apple that suggested his first idea of gravitation.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; during the raging of the plague at Cambridge, in 1666, he retired to Woolsthorpe for a time, and while sitting in his mother's garden, the simple circumstance you mention led his deeply penetrating mind to the discovery of the law by which the universe is kept in order, and the planets are sustained. If we follow Newton through his college career, we shall find that he obtained first one professorship and then another, and at a subsequent period of his life he received the honour of knighthood from Queen Anne.

MARION.

Sir Isaac Newton was not only a great philosopher, but an eminent Christian.

MRS. LESLIE.

You are right. It was the grand aim of his life to "look up from nature unto nature's God." He devoted much of his time to the study of the sacred Scriptures, and was never more distressed than when sacred subjects were treated lightly or irreverently. The life of Sir Isaac Newton is a striking exemplification of the truth that "science is the handmaid of religion." This truly Christian philosopher exchanged the wonderful discoveries of time for the unveiled glories of eternity, March the 20th, 1727. His remains were interred in Westminster Abbey; and such was the respect paid to his memory, that his pall was borne by the Lord Chancellor, two dukes, and three earls.

HERBERT.

It was at Grantham that Oliver Cromwell first signalised him-

self against the forces of his king. At the commencement of the war, he was only a private captain of horse, but soon succeeded to the command of a regiment, and joining with the Earl of Manchester, obtained a complete victory near Grantham, over twenty-four troops of royalist cavalry.

MARION.

Stamford is a very ancient town, and during the Danish occupation of this country was considered one of the principal cities of the kingdom. In the reign of Athelstan it enjoyed the privilege of a mint, and at one period contained no less than fourteen churches.

HERBERT.

Did not Stamford once possess a university ?

MRS. LESLIE.

The town was very early distinguished for the education of youth. Jeoffrid, abbot of Croyland, is said to have sent three monks from his monastery to Stamford for the purpose of tuition ; and at a later period, a band of Carmelite monks gave instruction to the sons of the neighbouring gentry in divinity and the arts. In this manner the town gained celebrity as a place of liberal education, and on a violent contest taking place in the university of Oxford, in the reign of Edward the Third, many of the students removed to Stamford, which already possessed the reputation and some of the advantages of a university. The glory of the town, however, in this respect, soon came to an end, as the Oxford scholars were compelled by royal proclamation to return to Oxford, and it was further enacted that no Oxford man should be permitted to take a degree at Stamford.

KATE.

Is Stamford a place of note at the present day ?

MRS. LESLIE.

It is still somewhat celebrated for the number of its schools and the extent of its charitable institutions. Its principal trade is in matting ; its population is about 9000.

KATE.

Grimsby, Gainsborough, and Spalding are market towns of Lincolnshire, but they do not possess any peculiar features of importance.

MARION.

There are remains of several monastic houses in this county. I believe the most interesting are the ruins of Croyland Abbey, on the border of Northamptonshire. The first monastery was founded by Ethelbald, about the commencement of the eighth century, but it was entirely demolished by the Danes, and one that was afterwards erected was destroyed by fire in the eleventh century. It was rebuilt in a style of great magnificence, the money necessary for the work being raised in a great measure by the sale of indulgences.

WILLIE.

What could the sale of indulgences be, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

An unholy trade which was formerly carried on by the Church of Rome, which pretended to sell pardon for sin to all who contributed money for any pious undertaking, such, for instance, as the building or restoration of a church. The extent to which this shameful practice was pursued in Germany in the early part of the sixteenth century, led to the glorious Reformation in that country, and afterwards in England.

KATE.

Oh! pray, mamma, tell us all about it. I remember learning in Mangnall's Questions, that the general sale of indulgences was one of the causes which led to the Reformation in this and other countries; but I never thought much about what the sale of indulgences meant. Do tell us how it was carried on!

MRS. LESLIE.

This evil had long been practised by the Church of Rome whenever money was required for any particular purpose; and quite at the commencement of the sixteenth century, John Tetzel, a native of Leipsic, and a man of very corrupt life, was commissioned by

the pope to travel through the country and sell letters of indulgence in order to raise funds for building the church of St. Peter's at Rome. He journeyed from one town to another in a waggon, proclaiming his indulgences as he went along, in much the same way as ordinary hawkers endeavour to dispose of their merchandise. Pardon at a fixed price was offered for every kind of crime ; thus, if a person had committed murder, he had to pay a very large sum for absolution ; if theft, a smaller sum, and so on, according to the nature of the sin committed ; but every crime was sure of pardon, provided a sufficient sum were paid for it.

KATE.

Oh ! mamma, how very shocking ! But is it possible the people could believe that any man had power to sell forgiveness ?

MRS. LESLIE.

The church of Rome, you know, does not allow the people to think for themselves in matters of religion, but requires them to do just as they are directed by their priests ; so for a long time the poor-misguided people believed just what this wicked man told them. He was everywhere received with the ringing of bells, and other signs of rejoicing, and after his customers had paid their money, they felt quite sure they were forgiven,—but, a great and glorious change was at hand. While the infamous Tetzal was travelling through the country deluding the ignorant people in such a shameful way, a pious monk, in a solitary cell at Erfurt, was earnestly engaged in studying a copy of the Bible, which he had accidentally found in the library of the monastery.

MARION.

Of course that pious monk was Martin Luther, and his study of the Scriptures led him to see the errors of the church of Rome.

MRS. LESLIE.

You are right. After a period of intense mental anxiety and deep solicitude regarding his eternal interests, it pleased God to convince Luther that pardon for sin was to be obtained only through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ ; and that neither priests, nor pope,

had any power at all in the matter. Some time after this happy change in his views and feelings, he was appointed to a professorship in the university of Wittenberg ; and on Tetzal proclaiming his indulgences near that town, Luther boldly came forth in the character of a reformer, published ninety-five protests against Romish doctrines and practices, which according to the custom of the times he nailed to the door of the church ; and challenged any one to controvert the matter with him.

HERBERT.

I forget whether Tetzal accepted the challenge.

MRS. LESLIE.

He replied to the celebrated Theses of Luther, but the spirit of inquiry had already begun to spread, and his answers were burned in the market place by the students of the university. From that hour the principles of the Reformation extended far and wide, and soon, not only Germany, but Switzerland, and England also, threw off the papal yoke, and embraced that glorious Protestantism, which is the bulwark of our liberties, and the foundation of our laws.

MARION.

Thank you, mamma. I little thought my mention of the ruins of Croyland Abbey would lead to such an interesting account of the Reformation !

WILLIE.

How strange it seems that only one of the towns we have noticed end in "by," when there are so many on the map.

MRS. LESLIE.

If you observe, Willie, most of the places which have that termination are printed in small type, which shows that they are unimportant towns, or villages, and therefore such as do not call for any particular attention. We have had a long conversation this morning. Next week, I hope you will all be prepared with much useful information relative to Norfolk.

CONVERSATION XXV.

NORFOLK.

SUBJECTS:—Signification of Name. — Boundaries. — Size. — The Wash. — Contemplated Improvements. — Ancient Inhabitants. — Danish Invasion of East Anglia. — Unwise Coalition. — Remarkable Change in Condition of County. — Method of reclaiming Land from the Sea. — Superiority of Agriculture. — Fine Turkeys. — City of Norwich. — Greater antiquity of Caistor. — Depredations of Danes. — Decline of Population at Period of Norman Survey. — Introduction of the Worsted Manufacture. — Village of Worsted. — Insurrection of Kett the Tanner. — Effects of the Dissolution of Monastic Houses. — Prosperity of Norwich in Reign of Elizabeth. — Character of Manufactures. — Cathedral. — Desecration by Puritans. — Unpopularity of Charles the First. — Chief Rivers. — Great Yarmouth, as it was and is. — Herring Fishery. — King's Lynn. — Castle Rising. — Circumstance which gave rise to the present Name of King's Lynn. — Appropriation of Church Revenues by Henry the Eighth. — Historical Recollections of King's Lynn. — Norfolk Estuary Works. — Present State of Town. — Cromer. — Inundations and Encroachments of Sea. — Wymondham. — Thetford. — Burnham Thorpe. — Admiral Nelson. — Early Abilities. — Subsequent Successes. — Battle of the Nile. — Battle of Trafalgar. — Character as Commander. — Remains of Monastic Houses. — Walsingham Priory. — Religious Pilgrimages. — Self Mortification natural to fallen Man. — Imputed Righteousness.

“WELL, Willie, what discovery have you made about *this* county?” said Mrs. Leslie, to her youngest child, whose beaming countenance denoted that he had something he considered very important to communicate.

WILLIE.

Oh! mamma, such a funny one! Do you know the word Norfolk means North-folk, and Suffolk, South-folk, and the counties

which have those names, were so called from the people living north or south of the rivers Waveney, and the Little Ouse.

MRS. LESLIE.

Thank you, Willie, for that interesting piece of information. After Katie has traced out the boundaries of Norfolk, I dare say Herbert will tell us what the inhabitants of this county were called, before the term North-folk was ever heard.

KATE.

Norfolk is bounded on the north and east by the North Sea, or German Ocean; on the South, by Suffolk; and on the West, by Cambridgeshire, Lincolnshire, and the Wash. The greatest length of this county is from east to west, and is about seventy miles, from north to south is about forty-five miles.

WILLIE.

What is the Wash, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

A large open space of sands and channels entirely covered at high tide, lying between the counties of Norfolk and Lincolnshire, and which receives the waters of the Ouse, the Nen, the Witham and the Welland. At low water these sands are nearly dry and may be crossed, but not without some degree of danger. Important works are now being carried on, by which it is hoped much land may be reclaimed from this estuary, and brought under cultivation.

HERBERT.

Norfolk was anciently inhabited by the Iceni, the brave British tribe, who under the command of their valiant queen Boadicea, rose in arms against the Romans in the reign of Nero; but on the defeat of their leader by Suetonius, the Roman general, they were compelled to submit to the conquerors. On the Roman division of Britain, this county was included in the province of Flavia Cæsariensis, and during the Saxon heptarchy, formed part of the kingdom of East Anglia.

MRS. LESLIE.

Norfolk bears many marks of its occupancy by the Romans, in

the remains of Roman stations, and in the antiquities which have been discovered ; while any one the least skilled in antiquarian research would as plainly discover, in the names of the towns and villages, its possession by the Saxons and Danes.

HERBERT.

Was not East Anglia the first part of our island which the Danes attacked ?

MRS. LESLIE.

It was, and it seems that the invaders at first met with but little opposition from the natives, who, cut off from intercourse with the other kingdoms of the heptarchy by estuaries and marshes, were themselves a rude and semi-barbarous people, and disposed to encourage rather than repel men of like characters and habits to their own. This unwise coalition induced fresh swarms of those northern barbarians to come over to our isle, until at length they succeeded in obtaining power and dominion.

HERBERT.

I believe few parts of England exhibit marks of such remarkable changes as have taken place in Norfolk. Much of the land has been rescued from the sea, and it is thought probable that at one period the eastern part was a group of islands, while on the other hand, some parts which were formerly land have yielded to the encroachments of the sea.

MARION.

I think I understand how marshy land is reclaimed by draining, but I cannot imagine how land can be rescued from the sea.

MRS. LESLIE.

My knowledge of engineering is far too limited to allow me fully to explain the method adopted in such a gigantic undertaking, but it may perhaps be in my power to give you some general idea of the plan pursued. In our occasional visits to the sea side, we are in the habit, you know, at low water, of walking out upon the sands, to some considerable distance ; while at high tide, our pleasant promenade is completely covered by the sea. You must now imagine

a huge embankment of stone and earth raised on the sands at low water mark, of sufficient strength to resist the turbulence of the raging ocean, which would thus be barred from covering the land it formerly overflowed, and you will have some slight idea of the way in which land is reclaimed from the sea. Do you understand?

MARION.

Yes, mamma, perfectly. But what a work of difficulty and danger it must be!

MRS. LESLIE.

The difficulties doubtless are formidable, but in these days science smiles at difficulties, and scarcely considers any insurmountable.

HERBERT.

Norfolk has long been ranked among the foremost of English counties for agriculture. The superior system of cultivation which there prevails, has rendered land, originally poor and barren, equally productive with the more fertile districts. Much of the arable land now producing abundant crops of corn, was formerly mere swamp and bog, over which it was dangerous for travellers to pass without the assistance of a guide, and was altogether impassable at high water.

WILLIE.

This county is noted for very fine turkeys, which are reared in great numbers for the London market.

MRS. LESLIE.

Norfolk is not only celebrated as an agricultural, but also as a manufacturing county. We will at once direct our attention to the chief city, which is also the principal seat of its manufactures.

KATE.

The city of Norwich stands on the river Wensum. Its manufactures consist principally of goods made of a mixture of silk and worsted. I have not been able to ascertain whether Norwich was a Roman town.

MRS. LESLIE.

There is no reason to suppose it was, as it does not possess any evidences of Roman occupation. The name is pure Saxon, and

merely signifies a northern town. The Romans, however, without doubt had a station at Caistor, now an inconsiderable village about three miles distant, from the ruins of which, it is said, Norwich originated. The inhabitants have a traditionary couplet to this effect,

"Caistor was a city, when Norwich was none,
And Norwich was built of Caistor stone."

MARION.

At whatever period the city was built, it seems to have been a considerable place in the time of the Saxons, as in the reign of Edward the Confessor, it is said to have been a flourishing town, having twenty-five parish churches.

HERBERT.

The city of Norwich affords an instance of the folly of the East Anglians, in tolerating the Danes, as it was taken and partially destroyed by Sweyn the Danish king. It was, however, soon restored, and was a place of great importance in the reign of Edward the Confessor.

KATE.

No doubt the people were soon oppressed and trodden down by the proud and haughty Normans ?

MRS. LESLIE.

The annals of this county are rather barren of detailed information about the period of the Conquest; but it is certain that Norwich participated in the general devastation of the times, as at the Domesday survey, the number of citizens was reduced to one half of those which belonged to it in Edward the Confessor's reign.

WILLIE.

Did William the Conqueror build a castle at Norwich, mamma ?

MRS. LESLIE.

There are still the remains of an ancient castle, which is said to have been built by him; but it is probably of older date. At any rate he bestowed it upon one of his followers named Roger

Bigod, in whose family it remained until the reign of Edward the Third.

HERBERT.

This city suffered greatly from the insurgent barons in the reign of John. It was afterwards fortified, the walls being embattled with twelve gates and forty towers.

MRS. LESLIE.

Our next notice brings us to a new epoch in the history of Norwich, and one from which its present commercial importance may be dated. I allude to the worsted manufacture, which was established by the Flemings in the reign of Edward the Third. You remember, of course, Katie, how it was they came to settle in this country.

KATE.

They were invited to do so, by Edward the Third and his good queen Philippa of Hainault, and being cruelly oppressed in Flanders, by the government, they were very glad to avail themselves of the advantages offered them in England.

MRS. LESLIE.

The village of Worsted near to Norwich was the first place in England where worsted was made, and from that circumstance it took the name of the place, and was called Worsted.

WILLIE.

How funny! Is worsted made there now mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

No, the manufacture has long been removed to Norwich and other places; but I am told that the inscriptions on the tombstones, and the list of charities left to the parish, denote the manufacturers of Worsted to have been numerous and wealthy, for a considerable period.

HERBERT.

The commercial prosperity of Norwich received a severe check in the reign of Edward the Sixth, by an insurrection which broke out, headed by a man named Kett, a tanner, of Wymondham in this county.

KATE.

What was the cause of the insurrection ?

HERBERT.

The country was in great distress in consequence of the vast numbers who had been thrown upon their own hands for support, owing to the dissolution of the monasteries, and other religious houses in the preceding reign, and the poor were also rendered desperate by the oppressions of their superiors, and were ready to join in any enterprise which promised to relieve them. Kett's object seems to have been to overthrow the government; he soon collected a body of several thousand men who completely pillaged the city of Norwich, and massacred great numbers of its inhabitants; but the rebellion was soon quelled, and five thousand of the rioters were put to death. Kett himself was hanged on the top of Norwich castle.

KATE.

When you spoke of the numbers who were thrown upon their own resources for a livelihood, of course you meant the monks and nuns ?

HERBERT.

Not only the monks and nuns, Katie, but the multitudes of idle poor who used daily to flock for food to the monastery and convent gates. All such were now compelled to do something for themselves, and as anything suited them better than work, they were ready to join in any mischief which afforded an opportunity for plunder.

KATE.

The breaking up of the monasteries and convents does not appear to have been a good thing after all, as it caused so much distress.

MRS. LESLIE.

No doubt at the time it was a great hardship to the monks and nuns, who had given up all the property they once possessed, and were quite ignorant of the means of providing for themselves; but the blow the Romish religion then received has been an incalculable blessing to succeeding generations.

MARION.

I am glad to find that in the reign of Elizabeth Norwich recovered from the depression into which it had been thrown by Kett's rebellion, and that the manufactures were resumed with greater spirit and enterprise than ever. This was brought about principally by a fresh influx of emigrants from the Netherlands, whose artizans were then the victims of a renewed persecution by the government.

MRS. LESLIE.

The industrious Flemings this time brought with them the knowledge of the bombazine manufacture, which they established in Norwich, and which was long a source of great wealth to the city. A fabric called Norwich crape was afterwards introduced, and continued to be used for dresses when I was a child.

KATE.

Norwich has been celebrated for poplins, of late years, has it not?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, and for all kinds of goods composed of a mixture of silk and worsted, such as barèges, challis, paramattas, lustres, &c. Some of the shawls made at Norwich are exceedingly beautiful.

WILLIE.

Is Norwich a handsome and populous place, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

In some of the oldest parts of the city, the streets are narrow, and irregularly built, as in most of our ancient cities, but the modern buildings are erected in a handsome style. The market place is one of the largest in England. The population of Norwich is about 70,000.

HERBERT.

Norwich cathedral, though considered one of the principal attractions of the city, is neither so large nor so handsome as many of our ancient ecclesiastical structures. Still there is much, it is said, in its architecture, to gratify the antiquary. In the 13th century it was partially destroyed by an insurrection of the people

against the monks, and it was also plundered and considerably defaced by the puritans during the civil wars.

KATE.

I wonder how the cause of Charles was received at Norwich. Do you know mamma whether the inhabitants were royalists or parliamentarians.

MRS. LESLIE.

The unfortunate king had scarcely a single adherent in this part of the county, and as there was no difference of feeling among the inhabitants no engagement occurred. Come Willie, let us hear whether you remember the chief rivers of Norfolk ?

WILLIE.

The Wensum, the Yare, the Waveney, the Nen, and the Little Ouse.

MARION.

Great Yarmouth is the next place of importance in the county. It is a flourishing sea-port town situated on a peninsula, formed on one side by the German Ocean ; and on the other, by Breydon Water, an inlet formed by the confluence of the rivers Yare, Bure, and Waveney. The name of the town is derived from its being at the mouth of the river Yare or Yar. It has a population of about 27,000, and has long been celebrated for its extensive exports of flour and corn.

MRS. LESLIE.

There are few places in England which present a greater contrast to what they once were, than Yarmouth. Up to the commencement of the 11th century, the spot on which it stands was a mere sand bank, subject to the continual inundations of the sea, and only the perilous settlement of a few solitary fishermen. It is now, and has long been a large, handsome, and populous town, possessing one of the finest quays in the kingdom.

WILLIE.

Yarmouth is celebrated for the herring fishery, mamma.

MRS. LESLIE.

It is, Willie, and for the mackerel fishery also. There are large

establishments in the town for curing herrings, which are sent to all parts of England, and sold under the name of Yarmouth bloaters.

HERBERT.

King's Lynn is another large seaport town of Norfolk containing nearly 20,000 inhabitants. This town appears to have risen upon the decay of Castle Rising, which is now an unimportant village about four miles from Lynn, but was formerly a place of much consequence and still possesses the ruins of a Norman castle. An old song declares that

"Castle Rising was a seaport town
When Lynn was but a marsh."

MARION.

The people of Norfolk appear to have been favoured by the Muses, as they had such a way of recording the changes in their county in verse!

MRS. LESLIE.

It was in a kind of doggerel rhyme, you know, that all events were transmitted to succeeding generations, before printing was invented. In some places these traditionary rhymes have been preserved with greater care than in others; and I should rather be inclined to think the good people of Norfolk indulged in a love of legendary lore, than to suppose their ancestors were especial favourites of the Muses.

HERBERT.

King's Lynn appears formerly to have been called Bishop's Lynn. Do you know from what cause, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

The name Lynn is a corruption of Len, a Saxon word, signifying a farm, or land. Bishop's Lynn, therefore, meant land possessed by the Bishop, and this idea is corroborated by Gibson in his additions to Camden, who states, that up to the time of Henry the Eighth this place was possessed by the bishop of Norwich, and that on its appropriation by that sovereign, it was henceforth called King's Lynn.

KATE.

What do you mean by its appropriation by Henry the Eighth, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

On the dissolution of monastic houses, of which we have just been speaking, the various lands and revenues belonging to them were seized by the king, as well as the gold and silver plate, costly jewels, and rich vestments which many of the churches of that day contained.

KATE.

How greatly he must have enriched himself by such means.

MRS. LESLIE.

Not so much as you might naturally suppose, as he erected and endowed six new bishoprics and settled pensions upon some of the ecclesiastics. He also lavished large grants of land upon his courtiers, and sometimes rewarded the most trifling and frivolous services with the gift of an old abbey, and the valuable lands belonging to it. But after all he retained for himself a considerable portion of the spoil.

MARION.

In the contests between John and the barons, the people of Lynn were zealously devoted to the royal cause, for which they were allowed several privileges. During the invasion of Louis, the dauphin of France, the king thought it desirable to remove his crown and other treasures, which he had for some time kept at Lynn, to a stronger fortress; and therefore set out for Lincolnshire, but in his passage across the sands, lost all his property in the manner we related last week.

HERBERT.

During the civil wars of Charles the First, this town was an exception to the ill feeling which prevailed in the county against the king, as it was garrisoned for him at the commencement of the war; but the inhabitants had to pay for their loyalty, as they were not only compelled to surrender, but to save their town from the violence of the parliamentarians, were obliged to submit to a tax of ten shillings a head besides a month's pay to the soldiers.

MARION.

I believe King's Lynn is a place of much importance at the present day ?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, the Norfolk estuary works, commenced in 1850, have greatly improved the entrance to the port, as well as the drainage of the surrounding country. The business of the port is considerable, and fishing is carried on to a great extent. The town also derives much support from an extensive and opulent agricultural district. The next place of interest is Cromer, although it is neither so large nor so populous, as some of the other towns we have not noticed. Can you tell us Marion, where, and how it is situated.

MARION.

The town is built upon a cliff of considerable height, facing the German Ocean, and is surrounded by sublime and beautiful scenery. It was formerly principally inhabited by fishermen, but of late years the town has been celebrated as a watering place, and is much resorted to during the bathing season. Cromer is famous for the quantity and excellence of lobsters and crabs which are caught upon the coast.

HERBERT.

It is said, there was anciently a town or village on this part of the coast called Shipdem, which was destroyed by an inundation of the sea early in the 15th century. When the tide is very low, large masses of what appears to be masonry may be seen, which are called by the sailors Shipdem steeple. At Cromer the sea has made many encroachments on the land and several houses have been destroyed during the last century. The bay of Cromer is very dangerous to mariners.

WILLIE.

Wymondham and Thetford are towns of Norfolk, mamma.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes ; but towns that do not possess any particular interest at the present day. Wymondham is chiefly noted as the birthplace of Kett the tanner, whose insurrection we have already noticed ;

and for some remains of an ancient abbey. Thetford is a place of great antiquity, which also possesses the ruins of an abbey church. This town was famed in the early history of our country, as the seat of the East Anglian kings, and at a later period was distinguished as the occasional residence of Henry the First, Henry the Second, and Elizabeth; but there is no other event of national importance recorded in its annals, since the Norman Conquest. The population of Thetford is upwards of 4000. That of Wymondham about 3000.

HERBERT.

The village of Burnham Thorpe, in this county, is greatly celebrated as the birthplace of the first of naval heroes, Admiral Lord Nelson, who was born at the Parsonage house on the 29th September, 1758, his father being rector of the parish. At the age of twelve, Horatio Nelson went to sea as a midshipman, under the care of his maternal uncle; and early gave promise of those great abilities which so eminently distinguished his subsequent career. In his nineteenth year he was made a lieutenant, and two years later, was promoted to the rank of post captain; but the glorious achievements of Nelson commenced with the French war of 1793, when as commander of the "Agamemnon," he sailed to the Mediterranean, and was present at the taking of Toulon and Bastia, at which places he displayed such determined bravery, that it is said his name was dreaded throughout the Mediterranean.

MARION.

I know the greatest victories of Nelson were those of the Nile and Trafalgar; but I forget the circumstances of the engagements.

HERBERT.

After being present in a hundred battles, and losing an eye and arm in the service of his country, Nelson returned to England for the recovery of his health, at which time Parliament voted him a pension of 1000*l.* per annum, but notwithstanding his maimed condition, his heroic nature could not long remain inactive, and he quickly rejoined the fleet under Earl St. Vincent, by whom he was despatched in search of Buonaparte, who had sailed from

Toulon with an armament consisting of 18 ships of the line, 6 frigates, and transport ships containing an army of 30,000 men. After a most persevering search and various disappointments, Nelson discovered the French fleet lying at anchor in Aboukir Bay, when a desperate engagement followed, which lasted throughout the night, when Nelson proved so victorious that two ships of the line, and two frigates only escaped of the whole French fleet. For this glorious victory, the gallant admiral was created Baron Nelson of the Nile.

MRS. LESLIE.

Well done, Herbert! You have given us a very clear account of the famous battle of the Nile.

HERBERT.

I do so much enjoy reading the naval history of England, that I think I remember the striking circumstances of most of the great battles fought by this brave commander.

KATE.

Then of course you can give us some particulars of the battle of Trafalgar.

HERBERT.

After the battle of the Nile, a short peace ensued, but hostilities being renewed in 1803, Nelson was appointed to the command of the English fleet in the Mediterranean. For two years he blockaded Toulon, when the French fleet escaped, but was followed with the utmost perseverance by Nelson, and after an extraordinary pursuit, he came up with it off the harbour of Cadiz. On the 21st of October, 1805, he encountered the combined fleets of France and Spain off Cape Trafalgar, when a most sanguinary battle ensued; previous to which he issued his memorable command, "England expects every man to do his duty." At the very moment of victory, this brave commander having neglected to take the star and other badges of distinction from his breast, was singled out by one of the enemy from the mizentop of a French ship, and received a mortal wound by a ball entering just below his shoulder and passing through his spine. He lingered just long

enough to know that a triumphant victory was gained ; his last words were: "I have done my duty, I praise God for it."

MARION.

I believe Nelson was greatly beloved as a commander?

MRS. LESLIE.

Southey, who wrote his life, says, "Never was any commander more beloved. He governed men by their reason and their affections; they knew that he was incapable of caprice or tyranny, and they obeyed him with alacrity and joy; because he possessed their confidence as well as their love." "Our Nel," they used to say, "is as brave as a lion and as gentle as a lamb."

WILLIE.

What a pity Nelson did not take off his star before the battle, and then, perhaps, he would not have been killed! Do you think he would, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Possibly not, Willie, as he would then have escaped notice; but men of courage scorn to conceal their badges of honourable distinction, and bravely, and even sometimes rashly, meet all the dangers of their situation.

WILLIE.

Herbert said that Nelson had been in a hundred battles; are there any interesting stories belonging to them, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Some day you will read all about them for yourself. We must not enter on them now, as it is quite time we brought our notice of this county to a close.

MARION.

There are the remains of several monastic houses in Norfolk, among which the most considerable are the ruins of Binham Priory, Castle Acre Priory, and Walsingham Priory. It is said that Walsingham Priory contained an image of the Virgin, which was held in the very highest veneration; and that pilgrimages to the shrine of "Our Lady of Walsingham" were even more fre-

quent than those to the shrine of St. Thomas à Becket, in Canterbury Cathedral.

WILLIE.

What is the meaning of a pilgrimage, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

A pilgrimage is simply a journey to any place which is interesting from its associations, that is, from some event that has occurred there, or from some treasure which the place contains. Pilgrimages have generally been of a religious character, and in the early ages of Christianity were most frequently made to the sepulchre of our Saviour, and to the places where he lived and suffered.

MARION.

I can almost enter into the feelings of those who made pilgrimages to such places, it must be so interesting to look upon scenes that have such hallowed recollections. Do you not think, mamma, it was quite as natural for the early Christians to like to visit the Saviour's sepulchre as it is for us to feel a mournful pleasure in standing by the tomb of those we have loved?

MRS. LESLIE.

I agree with you, my dear ; and could see no great harm in pilgrimages if they went no further than the case you have supposed, which would be an occasional visit as opportunity occurred ; but, you know, religious pilgrimages were generally accomplished with incredible toil and difficulty, took up a vast amount of valuable time, and were believed to be highly meritorious in the sight of God, the merit being in proportion to the inconvenience with which they were attended. They were, moreover, made to the most absurd and ridiculous objects, such as the bones of saints and martyrs, images of the Virgin, the seamless coat of our Saviour, fragments of the cross, parings of the nails of apostles, and a variety of other relics which were invested with great sanctity by the devotees.

HERBERT.

I should think this was a clever invention to fill the coffers of the

priesthood, as I believe the pilgrims seldom went empty-handed. The church of Little Walsingham, it is said, became immensely rich by the large endowments and costly presents which were made in honour of the Virgin. Foreigners of all nations, as well as several of our own kings and queens, came here on pilgrimage, and Henry the Eighth, in the second year of his reign, is said to have walked barefooted from Barsham, a distance of two miles, to present a valuable necklace to "Our Lady of Walsingham."

KATE.

I think my own sense would teach me better than to do such a foolish thing; and how Henry the Eighth, who never seemed to think of anything but his own gratification and indulgence, could have been induced to submit to such discomfort as walking two miles barefooted, I cannot possibly imagine.

MRS. LESLIE.

In such an act of humiliation by that proud and selfish monarch we may see, first, with what iron fetters the Church of Rome enslaves her votaries, and how blind is the superstition by which she misleads them; and we may also learn, how natural it is to fallen man to make himself acceptable to God by any self-inflicted penance, rather than to trust entirely to the finished work of Christ. Let us, my dear children, be thankful that our country is freed from the dominion of the papacy; and earnestly seek to be found in Christ, not leaning on our own righteousness which is of the law, but the righteousness which is of God by faith.

CONVERSATION XXVI.

SUFFOLK.

SUBJECTS:—Boundaries. — Size. — Early Inhabitants. — Evidences of occupancy by Romans. — Burgh Castle. — Suffolk included in Danelagh. — Natural Features and Resources. — Principal Rivers. — Ipswich. — Cardinal Wolsey. — Humble Origin. — Church Preferment. — Introduction to Henry the Eighth. — Inordinate Ambition. — Nicholas Breakspear. — Wolsey's Mode of Life. — Hospitality. — Wolsey a Patron of Learning. — Rise to highest Offices in Church and State. — Trade of Ipswich. — Bury St. Edmund's. — Signification of Name. — Edmund surnamed the Martyr. — Assassination by Danes. — Celebrated Monastery. — St. Edmund's Shrine. — Canute. — Early Signification of the Term Pagan. — Grand Meeting of confederated Barons. — Vicissitudes of Town of Bury St. Edmund's. — Ruins of Ancient Abbey. — Lowestoft. — Recent Improvements. — Sir Samuel Morton Peto, Bart. — Fisheries. — Engagement between English and Dutch. — Sudbury, and other Towns. — Dunwich. — Ancient Importance. — Present Insignificance. — Declension a remarkable Exception to the general State of Places in England.

“HAVE you found anything belonging to Suffolk worth making a memorandum of, Herbert?” inquired Kate Leslie of her brother, with an air indicative of anything but satisfaction, as she observed him place his note-book on the table.

“Not much that is very interesting, Katie,” he replied, “for the county does not possess any distinctive natural features, and there are but few important recollections connected with its history. I fear we shall have rather a dull conversation this morning.”

WILLIE.

Oh, mamma will be sure to find something to tell us that will make it interesting; don't you think you shall, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

I cannot tell what our observations relative to Suffolk may lead to, Willie, but I must confess its records are rather barren of interest compared with those of many other counties. • We must, however, make the best of such information as we have, and Katie may at once point out its boundaries.

KATE.

Suffolk is bounded on the north, by Norfolk, from which it is separated by the rivers Waveney, Yare, and Little Ouse; on the east, by the German Ocean; on the south, by Essex, from which it is separated by the Stour; and on the west, by Cambridgeshire. The greatest length of the county is from north-east to south-west, and in that direction is about sixty-eight miles. Its greatest breadth is fifty-two miles.

HERBERT.

Before the invasion of Britain by the Romans this county appears to have been inhabited by the Iceni, and on its subjugation to have been included in the province of Flavia Cæsariensis. During the Saxon heptarchy it belonged to the kingdom of the East Angles.

MARION.

The evidences of Roman occupation are not considered very conclusive, I think, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Archæologists have been considerably divided in opinion, as to the exact locality of the Roman towns, which has been a subject of much learned discussion; but the urns, coins, and other antiquities, that from time to time have been discovered, prove beyond a doubt that this county *was* inhabited by the Romans. Nor are we restricted to the remains which have been brought to light by excavation to establish the fact of its Roman occupation. Burgh Castle, an ancient encampment on the river Waveney, is unquestionably a Roman work, and as it is calculated that when entire it was capable of accommodating a cohort and a half of Roman

soldiers, we may certainly conclude it to have been an important military station.

MARION.

Suffolk was one of the counties given by Alfred the Great to Guthrum the Dane. It had previously suffered severely from the dreadful depredations of the Danes, who assassinated Edmund, the last king of East Anglia.

KATE.

I suppose that was Edmund, surnamed the Martyr?

MRS. LESLIE.

It was; he was also distinguished after his death by the title of St. Edmund, having been canonised on account of his great piety. We shall have occasion to speak of him again presently, as one of the towns of this county was named after him. Perhaps one of you will mention the principal resources of Suffolk in an industrial point of view.

HERBERT.

Suffolk is almost entirely an agricultural county. Its natural features are very similar to those of Norfolk, and although there is a great variety in the soil of the different parts of the county, it altogether forms part of one of the best cultivated districts of England. Suffolk butter has long had a high reputation in the London markets.

WILLIE.

The principal river, beside those Katie has mentioned, is the Orwell. The Gipping, the Deben, the Alde, and the Blyth, are also rivers of Suffolk.

MRS. LESLIE.

Very good, Willie. You may now mention the county town.

WILLIE.

Ipswich, on the river Orwell.

MRS. LESLIE.

The town of Ipswich is situated just below the place where the rivers Orwell and Gipping meet. The river Gipping gives the name to the town, which was called by the Saxons Gipeswick.

MARION.

I think Ipswich is the least interesting in its historical associations of any of the county towns we have noticed. The only events of importance appear to have been its wars with the Danes, and the grants of several charters to the inhabitants by King John, and some succeeding monarchs.

WILLIE.

Have you forgotten that Cardinal Wolsey was born at Ipswich, Marion?

MARION.

No, Willie ; I was just going to observe that that circumstance is the only interesting recollection connected with the town. I dare say you can tell us something about this extraordinary man?

WILLIE.

He was the son of a butcher at Ipswich, and was born in 1471. He became almost as rich and great as the king himself ; but riches did not make him happy even while he had them, and before he died he had the misfortune to offend the king, who stripped him of all his wealth, and left him to die in disgrace in Leicester Abbey.

KATE.

How strange it seems that a butcher's son should have been raised to such a high position ! I wonder how it was, for I believe he was not at all a good man.

MRS. LESLIE.

There is no doubt that Wolsey owed many of his preferments more to the attractions of a pleasing appearance and prepossessing manners than either to ability or moral worth. After receiving a good education at his native town, he was sent to Magdalen College, Oxford, and subsequently was appointed master of a grammar school, where he had the three sons of the Marquis of Dorset under his care, a circumstance which induced that nobleman to present him with the living of Limmington in Somersetshire, but so little was his life in accordance with his sacred office that we

are informed he was once put in the stocks, by Sir Amias Pawlet, for a breach of the peace during a fit of intoxication.

MARION.

What a disgraceful situation for a clergyman! I should have thought that alone would have prevented his promotion.

MRS. LESLIE.

Indeed one might naturally have supposed so; but on the contrary, we find him raised from one preferment to another until he became one of the domestic chaplains of Henry the Seventh, who also conferred upon him the Deanery of Lincoln.

KATE.

Henry the Seventh, mamma! I thought it was Henry the Eighth over whom Wolsey had such extraordinary influence.

MRS. LESLIE.

You are right; but Wolsey was previously chaplain to his father, Henry the Seventh, and was introduced to the young king on his accession to the throne by Fox, Bishop of Winchester, who, ignorant of his real character, thought he would be a check upon the follies and vices which early began to be manifested in the conduct of the youthful sovereign. The good bishop, however, soon found he had been deceived, as Wolsey used the opportunity given him, not to restrain, but to flatter, the foibles of his royal master, with the sole view to his own advancement, and having acquired unbounded influence, hesitated not to make the king his dupe whenever his own interests seemed to require it.

MARION.

How came Wolsey to be made a cardinal? That was an appointment of the Pope's, I suppose.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; and it was to ingratiate himself with Henry that the Pope conferred that dignity upon his favourite.

HERBERT.

I believe Wolsey himself aspired to the popedom at one period.

MRS. LESLIE.

He did ; indeed his ambition knew no bounds. Camden might well speak of him as "the butcher's son whose vast thoughts were always took up with extravagant projects." His desire of succeeding to the papal chair was, however, doomed to disappointment by the breach of faith of Charles the Fifth of Germany, on whose promises his expectations had been chiefly raised. I believe you are aware that Nicholas Breakspear, who lived in the reign of Henry the Second, was the only Englishman who ever arrived at the popedom ?

HERBERT.

Yes ; I know, mamma. And he was called Pope Adrian the Fourth.

WILLIE.

Can you tell us anything more about Cardinal Wolsey, mamma ?

MRS. LESLIE.

I believe I have not told you anything about the way in which he spent his immense income. In the first place he had several magnificent palaces, which were furnished in a style equal, if not superior to the king's ; one at Hampton Court was provided with 280 beds for visitors, so we may conclude that he kept a great deal of company. Then he was attended by 800 servants, many of them being knights and gentlemen. His plate and dresses were of the most costly description, and even the trappings of his horses were adorned with velvet and gold. The feasts and entertainments which he gave were more sumptuous than we can possibly imagine, and his head cook is described as arrayed in velvet and satin, with a chain of gold about his neck. I must not, however, forget to tell you, that though Wolsey entertained the rich with pomp and ostentation, he was not unmindful of the poor. At his princely establishments there was plenty of good cheer for all comers, and his gates were ever open to the destitute and afflicted.

HERBERT.

That was at least a redeeming point in his character, and we must also do him the justice to believe that he was the patron and

friend of learning, for you know, mamma, he founded a collegiate school in his native town, established several lectures at Oxford, and erected the magnificent college of Christ Church.

MRS. LESLIE.

Very true. There is no doubt Wolsey would have been a much better, as well as a much happier man, if it had not been for his insatiable ambition. He attained to the very highest offices in church and state, was made archbishop of York, cardinal, prime minister, and chancellor of England, and he lived to prove how fickle are the favours of fortune, and to regret that his existence had not been devoted to a higher and a nobler purpose. His disgrace, fall from power, and melancholy death, we noticed some weeks ago in our conversation on Leicestershire.

KATE.

Are there any manufactures of importance carried on at Ipswich?

MRS. LESLIE.

It is noted for agricultural implements and machinery. The town also possesses a good local trade and is extensively engaged in the exportation of corn, malt, &c. Its population is about 33,000.

MARION.

Our next town is Bury St. Edmund's, or St. Edmund's Bury, as it was formerly called; a clean well-built place, delightfully situated on the river Lark, about twenty-five miles from Ipswich.

WILLIE.

Of course, mamma, this is the town that is named after King Edmund the Martyr, or St. Edmund, as he was called. You told us he was killed by the Danes, and I dare say he was buried here, and that is why the place is called St. Edmund's Bury.

MRS. LESLIE.

Your derivation seems very plausible at first sight, Willie, as St. Edmund was buried at this town; but yet it is not the correct one. The word Bury is a corruption of burgh, which signifies a town, St. Edmund's Bury, therefore, simply meant St. Edmund's town.

WILLIE.

But why was it called his town, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Because it was bequeathed to him by Beodoric, its former possessor. Edmund was crowned at Bury on Christmas Day, 835, being then but fifteen years of age.

HERBERT.

If the wise and experienced Alfred found it such a difficult matter to govern the kingdom during the invasions of the Danes, I cannot imagine how such a youth as Edmund resisted them all.

MRS. LESLIE.

He does not appear to have had any engagement with them until the tenth year of his reign, when they fell upon him in vast numbers, and after a fierce battle in which many on both sides were slain, Hubba, the Danish chieftain, proposed that the contest should be decided by Edmund's becoming his vassal, and dividing with him his treasures and dominions.

HERBERT.

A very modest request, upon my word! Of course Edmund did not agree to it?

MRS. LESLIE.

He replied that he would never submit to a pagan, but out of consideration to his subjects, he resolved to die rather than make any further resistance, therefore allowed the barbarians to bind him to a tree, when his body was pierced with arrows and his head cut off, and thrown contemptuously into a neighbouring thicket.

KATE.

How sorry his subjects must have been to lose a king who, to save their lives, consented to sacrifice his own!

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; the rude East Anglians appear to have been deeply moved by the death of their beloved Sovereign, and so highly were his remains venerated that, many years afterwards, during the invasion

of Sweyn, they were removed to London in order to protect them from desecration. A monastery of almost unparalleled magnificence was afterwards erected, and the bones of the Martyr were brought back again, and deposited in a splendid shrine, adorned with precious stones and costly ornaments.

HERBERT.

Those venerated relics, no doubt, proved a source of immense wealth to the establishment.

MRS. LESLIE.

You are right. Camden, in speaking of this celebrated monastery, says, "If one inquires after the extent of its wealth, it would be a hard matter to give an account of the value of those gifts which were hung up at the single tomb of St. Edmund; beside the revenues and land rents to one thousand five hundred and sixty pounds." The Danish king Canute, with a view to atone for the violence of his predecessors, made a pilgrimage to St. Edmund's shrine, and offered his crown to the murdered saint, and most of the English kings between the Norman Conquest and the Reformation are said to have made their devotions at St. Edmund's tomb.

KATE.

Canute was a pagan before he came to England, I believe?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; but was converted to Christianity in the early part of his reign, after which he became as distinguished for his piety, as he had formerly been for cruelty.

HERBERT.

I can never quite understand why heathens are called pagans. The word pagan is clearly derived from the Latin *pagus*, a village, and therefore seems merely to denote a villager.

MRS. LESLIE.

And that was the only sense in which the word was used by the early Latin writers. To ascertain the way in which it became synonymous with heathen, we must go back to the earliest period of

the Christian church. Christianity we know was first established in the towns and cities of the Roman Empire, while the villages and remote districts were still involved in the superstitions of heathenism. A pagan, as we have seen, simply meant a villager, but being associated with the idolatries of those uninstructed hamlets, in course of time became equivalent to idolater, in which sense it has been used since the latter part of the fourth century.

HERBERT.

One of the most interesting events in the annals of Bury St. Edmund's, is the great meeting of confederated barons, which took place on the twentieth of November, 1214, for the purpose of deliberating on the method to be adopted in order to obtain a charter of rights from King John. Wearied and disgusted with the king's tyranny and continual breach of faith, the barons had long been conspiring against him; and being joined by Stephen Langton, Archbishop of Canterbury, who had accidentally discovered a copy of a charter granted by Henry the First, a meeting was convened at Bury in order to frame from it a bill of rights, which the barons intended to present to the king at the ensuing festival of Christmas. The clauses of the bill having been agreed upon by the barons in full council, they proceeded to the Abbey Church, where one by one in the order of seniority, they advanced to the high altar, and laying their hands upon it, solemnly swore to wage war against the king, unless he complied with their just demands.

WILLIE.

Did the king agree to what the barons wanted ?

HERBERT.

Not at first, Willie. As was agreed upon, they set out to meet him at Worcester on Christmas day, but having some idea of their intention he hastily proceeded to London, whither they followed him, and compelled him to grant them a hearing. At first he tried to frighten them from their purpose, but he soon found they were in earnest, and would not be satisfied with anything less than a complete repeal of the arbitrary Norman laws, and a charter grant-

ing them perfect rights and liberties. He then became alarmed, altered his tone, and begged for time to consider their proposals. They agreed to wait-till Easter, but when Easter came he was no more inclined to grant their requests than he had been before, so they boldly took up arms against him, and were soon joined by all classes of the people. The king then perceived that it was indeed a desperate case, and sent the earl of Pembroke to assure the barons that he was ready to grant them freely all the liberties they demanded, and desired them to name a place and time of meeting. The place they named was Runnymede, and the day the fifteenth of June.

WILLIE.

Where is Runnymede, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

It is the name of a meadow on the banks of the Thames between Windsor and Staines. Herbert has given us such a good account of the noble perseverance of the barons in demanding their rights and liberties, that we will look to him to describe the proceedings of the memorable fifteenth of June, when we come to notice Surrey, the county in which the celebrated meadow is situated.

KATE.

Oh! mamma, how sorry I am to leave this interesting account unfinished!

MRS. LESLIE.

What, Katie? Is it possible you have found anything associated with Suffolk *interesting*?

KATE.

Pray don't laugh at me, mamma! I don't think I shall ever call a county uninteresting again, until we have had our conversation about it, at any rate!

MARION.

The town of Bury St. Edmund's has passed through many vicissitudes. In the reign of Richard the Second, it suffered greatly from an insurrection of the people, when the abbey was plundered, and jewels to a great amount were carried off. A rebellion also broke out in the reign of Henry the Eighth, in consequence of his

attempt to extort money from the people. In 1608 a fire destroyed 160 houses besides other property to the amount of 60,000*l.*, and in 1636 the plague so depopulated the town that it is said the grass grew in the streets.

KATE.

Are there any ruins of the old abbey left, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Some inconsiderable ones. The gate, however, is in a fine state of preservation, and now forms the entrance to the beautiful botanic gardens.

WILLIE.

Is Bury a manufacturing town, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

No, my dear. It had formerly an extensive woollen trade, but is now dependent on the residents in the town and neighbourhood. Its population is about 14,000. Its grammar school, founded by Edward the Sixth, is in great repute.

MARION.

Lowestoft is another town of Suffolk, with a population of nearly 7000. The old town is built on the top of a cliff, overhanging the German Ocean. The new town, which is about half a mile distant, consists of long ranges of handsome houses facing the sea, and is a place of much fashionable resort during the bathing season. The vast improvements which have been effected in this town during the last few years are chiefly owing to the enterprising spirit of Sir Samuel Morton Peto, Bart. The herring fishery is carried on along the coast to a great extent. Mackerel and soles are also caught in vast quantities and sent to the London market.

HERBERT.

A sanguinary battle was fought off Lowestoft between the Dutch and English fleets in the reign of Charles the Second. The engagement, which took place on the 3rd of June, 1665, commenced at three in the morning, and continued with scarcely any intermission until seven in the evening, when the Dutch were completely defeated, eighteen of their ships were taken, and fourteen more sunk or burned, while the English lost only one ship.

MARION.

Sudbury and Beccles are market towns of Suffolk, but their records are neither interesting nor important. Newmarket is partly in Suffolk and partly in Cambridgeshire.

MRS. LESLIE.

There is no place in this county which presents a more striking contrast to what it once was, than the little village of Dunwich on the coast. By the Saxons it was called Dommoc-ceaster, the termination of which denotes it to have been a Roman fortress. It was subsequently a bishop's see, and contained at one period seven parish churches, and a mint; an old author speaks of it as being "well stored with riches of all sorts." In the time of the Plantagenet kings it was still a considerable place, and in the wars of the Roses sided with the Yorkists; but during the last few centuries it has completely fallen to decay, its churches and the greater number of its houses have been swept away by the fury of the sea, and it is now an insignificant fishing village containing but 294 inhabitants.

MARION.

How much more pleasant it is to hear of the prosperity than of the decline of any place. There is something so melancholy in the idea of a town once flourishing and wealthy, but now desolate and forsaken.

MRS. LESLIE.

I agree with you in that sentiment, my dear; but we will not conclude our conversation this morning with gloomy reflections. Instead of dwelling upon the decay of Dunwich and some few such exceptional instances of retrogression, let us rather contemplate the amazing increase and prosperity of such towns as Liverpool, Manchester, Birkenhead, and many other places which have risen to such vast importance during the present century, and we shall have much more reason to rejoice than to lament over the present condition of our native land. Such considerations as these will, I trust, inspire you with renewed energy for your next week's investigations into the county of Cambridgeshire.

CONVERSATION XXVII.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

SUBJECTS:—Boundaries.—Size.—Ancient Inhabitants.—General Features.—Isle of Ely.—Cambridge.—Destruction by Danes.—Resistance to William the Conqueror.—Hereward le Wake.—Destructive Rebellion.—Character of William Rufus.—Origin of University.—Number of Colleges.—Manner in which Education was anciently carried on.—Comparison of Oxford and Cambridge.—Principal Rivers.—City of Ely.—Cathedral.—Canute the Great.—Partiality for Fen District.—Personal Appearance.—Atrocities inflicted by William the Conqueror.—Civil Wars.—Principal Productions.—Wisbeach.—March.—Newmarket.

WHEN Mrs. Leslie joined her children on the morning appropriated to their conversation on Cambridgeshire, she found them engaged in an animated discussion as to the origin and foundation of the University. Herbert referring to his authorities, positively affirmed that there was no evidence of its establishment as a University until long after the Norman Conquest; while Marion as decidedly maintained that it was founded during the Saxon era.

“You are debating a knotty question, my dear children,” observed their mother, “and one which I fear you will find very difficult to bring to a satisfactory decision. We will, however, briefly investigate the subject in its proper place, for we had better proceed in our usual order, and Katie may mention the boundaries and size of Cambridgeshire.”

KATE.

Cambridgeshire is bounded on the north by Lincolnshire; on

the east by Norfolk and Suffolk ; on the south by Essex and Hertfordshire ; and on the west by Bedfordshire, Huntingdonshire and Northamptonshire. The greatest length of the county is about fifty-one miles, and its greatest breadth thirty-two miles.

HERBERT.

The earliest inhabitants of this county were the Iceni, whose territories, on being subjugated by the Romans, formed part of their province of Flavia Cæsariensis. During the Saxon Heptarchy, Cambridgeshire was included in the kingdom of the East Angles.

MARION.

The northern and central parts of this county belong to the great fen district, and consist of low marshy ground which at one period was almost covered with water. The towns and villages are built upon slight elevations rising above the general level of the fens, and the churches belonging to them may be seen at a considerable distance.

HERBERT.

The whole of this extensive district is included under the general name of the Isle of Ely, and like the rest of the fenny land we have noticed, has only been rendered habitable and fit for cultivation by the combined influence of capital and skill.

WILLIE.

But Ely does not look at all like an island on the map, mamma.

MRS. LESLIE.

You are looking at the city of Ely, my dear, but the district Herbert mentions as the Isle of Ely, extends from Tyd on the north, to Upwere on the south, a distance of twenty-eight miles ; and from Abbots Delf on the east, to the river Nen near Peterborough on the west, a distance of twenty-five miles. This, you will say, does not look more like an island than the city, but you must remember that this district was so called from the higher portions of land on which the towns and villages were built being surrounded by low fens, which when overflowed by neighbouring rivers formed what was termed an inland island.

WILLIE.

But why was it called the island of *Ely*, mamma ?

HERBERT.

I declare, mamma, Willie is prosecuting his inquiries with all the earnestness of an antiquary.

MRS. LESLIE.

And I am happy to satisfy his desire for knowledge by giving him all the information in my power. The Venerable Bede, who lived in the eighth century, considered that the name *Ely* was derived from a Saxon word signifying an eel ; a derivation I think exceedingly probable, as it is certain eels abounded in that locality, from the fact of the lords of the manor, after the Norman Conquest, being entitled annually to 100,000 eels from the neighbouring towns : Wisbeach alone having to furnish 28,000.

HERBERT.

I should think, Willie, you will reward mamma for such an interesting piece of information, by telling her the name of the county town, and from what it is derived.

WILLIE.

Cambridge, so called from a bridge over the Cam, on which river it is built.

MRS. LESLIE.

Cambridge appears to have been built on the site of a Roman station, called *Camboritum*, which signified a ford over the river Cam. Bede speaks of it in the year 700, as a little desolate city, so situated that it was visited in large boats by the people of *Ely*. The first well authenticated fact relating to the history of Cambridge, or *Grentbrige*, as it was then called, is the burning of it by the Danes in 871 ; and it is again mentioned as destroyed by the same people in 1010.

MARION.

William the Conqueror is said to have built a castle at this town, on the site of a Danish fortress, but on a larger scale, as twenty-seven houses were demolished to make room for it.

HERBERT.

Really, it puts one out of patience to hear of such reckless devastation! I am happy, however, to say, that William's rapacity received a check in this county, as the most determined resistance he met with in England was from the inhabitants of the Isle of Ely, under the valiant Hereward le Wake, a noble Saxon, who had gained distinction for his bravery in foreign parts.

KATE.

Pray, tell us, Herbert, all you know about that noble Saxon. It will be quite cheering to hear of one who was determined not to submit to that haughty Norman king.

HERBERT.

Soon after the conquest of England at the battle of Hastings, Hereward, who was then in Flanders, hearing that his inheritance had been bestowed upon a Norman, hastened to England, resolved to wrest his possessions from the hands of the usurpers. He immediately commenced hostilities, making the Isle of Ely his principal station; and erected a wooden castle for the purpose of defence.

KATE.

I hope, with all my heart, he succeeded. But I should think a wooden castle must have been a poor protection.

MRS. LESLIE.

It would be in our day, Katie, but at the time of which we are speaking, you know, gunpowder and firearms were unknown; and therefore the castle could not be attacked from a distance; and the marshy nature of the soil made it difficult to get near it, although William endeavoured to make roads and bridges to enable his army to cross the fens. I will leave Herbert to tell you what expedient the undaunted Saxon adopted to repel his Norman foes.

HERBERT.

On the approach of William and his army, Hereward set fire to the reeds and rushes of the fens; and the conflagration overtaking the troops, many perished in the flames. During this resistance

to the Normans, Hereward's camp was the refuge of the friends of Saxon independence; and ultimately, by his vigorous and persevering efforts, he wrung from the unscrupulous king a full restitution of his rights. In accordance with the custom of the times, the valiant deeds of this brave Saxon became the theme of many popular songs; and I can only say I would have heartily joined in them if I had lived at that period.

MRS. LESLIE.

I do not doubt it, Herbert. But we have somewhat digressed, and must now return to Cambridge.

MARION.

In 1066 the town was laid waste with fire and sword, in consequence of a rebellion that took place, for the purpose of placing Robert, the eldest son of William the Conqueror, upon the throne, instead of his brother William Rufus.

WILLIE.

I thought the eldest son of the king of England was always king, after the death of his father.

MRS. LESLIE.

Such is the case now, but for a long period the right of succession was not settled by law, but was determined by the will of the late sovereign. William the Conqueror, who, you remember, was Duke of Normandy as well as King of England, left the dukedom of Normandy to his eldest son Robert, while William, his second son, was to succeed him upon the throne of England. The Anglo-Norman barons, however, had taken a great dislike to William Rufus on account of his vices, and wished to set him aside and have Robert, whom they liked much better, for their king, therefore took up arms in his cause; but the Anglo-Saxons, who composed much the most numerous class of the people, being won over to William's cause by his promise of restoring their liberties, and granting them much more freedom than his father had done, steadily opposed the barons, and soon set William upon the English throne.

KATE.

If I remember right, William Rufus soon forgot the promises he had made to the poor trodden-down Saxons.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, he inherited all his father's rapacity; and as soon as he found himself firmly established on the throne, all his energies were directed to his own aggrandisement, without a thought for the Anglo-Saxons, whose wrongs he had promised to redress. He had, moreover, no regard either for religion or religious institutions; therefore seized upon the revenues of the Church whenever they lay in his power, and did not hesitate to apply the incomes of vacant bishoprics to his own use, instead of appointing successors to their sees. But we will not dwell upon the career of this violent and unprincipled king.

HERBERT.

The town of Cambridge appears to have participated but slightly, either in the wars of John and the barons, or in the civil wars of Charles the First; indeed, I believe there is very little interest attached to it, except that which is derived from the University.

MRS. LESLIE.

Then we may as well at once return to the debate I interrupted between you and Marion, and examine the grounds upon which you base your relative opinions. The first step will certainly be to ascertain distinctly what is meant by a university?

HERBERT.

There, Marion! I told you that was just the point upon which the whole matter turned! From all the information I have been able to gather, and I have consulted Dr. Winstanley and papa, as well as Malden's "Origin of Universities," it appears that the term university was applied to a number of schools in one place, formed into an organised and corporate body; and that such corporation of schools was quite unknown until the end of the twelfth

or the beginning of the thirteenth century. The incorporation of the schools of Cambridge does not appear to have taken place until 1231, and some authors fix it at a still later period.

MARION.

But I have seen it stated that Cambridge became celebrated as a seat of learning, under Sigebert, king of the East Angles, in the seventh century, and that when Edward the Elder repaired the ravages caused by the Danes, he erected halls for students, and appointed professors to the schools. Surely those efforts laid the foundation of the University.

HERBERT.

Granted, my dear sister. All I wish to maintain is this, that the University did not exist as such, that is, as an incorporated body, until the fifteenth year of the reign of Henry the Third, or A.D. 1231. What do you say, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

I believe, my dear children, you are both right in what you affirm. The schools which existed in Cambridge in Saxon times, and to which Bede probably refers in his "Ecclesiastical History," doubtless laid the foundation of the University, which was not established as a corporation until some 500 years after. In your investigation of this subject, I am glad to find you have rejected as altogether unworthy of credence those fabulous accounts which ascribe its foundation to a period long before the Christian era. I see you have a list of the colleges of this university, Herbert: will you let us hear them?

HERBERT.

St. Peter's College	King's College	Magdalen College
Clare Hall	Queen's College	Trinity College
Pembroke College	Catharine Hall	Emmanuel College
Caius College	Jesus' College	Sidney College
Trinity Hall	Christ's College	Downing College.
Corpus Christi College	St. John's College	

KATE.

Were all the colleges built at the time the University was established, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

No, Katie, they were erected at different periods; St. Peter's, the earliest college was built in 1257, while Downing College was not founded until the year 1800.

KATE.

The first college erected in 1257, mamma? I thought Herbert said the University was formed in 1231.

MRS. LESLIE.

You seem to take it for granted that a college is the same thing as a university. This is not the case; a university would be such even if it did not possess any colleges at all. When the celebrated schools of Oxford and Cambridge became incorporated universities, and students were sent from the neighbouring monasteries in larger numbers than ever, to share in the educational privileges of those distinguished places, it was deemed expedient for them to live separate and secluded, and by the same rules to which they had been accustomed in the monasteries. Establishments were therefore founded, and subsequently endowed by charitable individuals, where the students resided under the care of a principal or master. These establishments were called at first inns or hostels, and afterwards halls and colleges, but they were seldom called colleges unless endowed with money for the support of teachers as well as students. St. Peter's was only a hostel when founded in 1257, and did not become a college for more than twenty years afterwards.

KATE.

But where did the students meet for instruction before the formation of the University?

MRS. LESLIE.

To give you an idea of the way in which education was carried on at Cambridge shortly after the Norman Conquest, I

cannot do better than to read you an extract from Turner's "England in the Middle Ages." After speaking of Jeoffrid, abbot of Croyland, sending four Norman monks to Cambridge to teach philosophy and science, he writes, "With all the zeal, and in the manner of our modern itinerant preachers, they hired a public barn at Cambridge, and went thither daily, and taught what they knew. In a short time a great concourse of people gathered round them. In the second year of their exertions, the accumulation of scholars from all the country round, as well as from the town, was so great that the largest house, barn, or even church, was insufficient to contain them. To gratify the extensive demand for their instructions, they separated their labours. In the first part of the morning, one of the friars, who was distinguished as a grammarian, taught the Latin grammar to the younger part of the community ; at a later hour, another, who was esteemed an acute sophist, instructed the more advanced in the logic of Aristotle, according to the comments of Porphyry and Averroes ; a third friar lectured on rhetoric, from Cicero and Quintilian ; the fourth, on Sundays and feast days, preached to the people in various churches ; and in this duty Jeoffrid himself frequently co-operated."

WILLIE.

Is Cambridge as fine a place as Oxford, mamma ?

MRS. LESLIE.

No, my dear, it will not admit of comparison with that beautiful city, either in the number and magnificence of its buildings, or in the scenery by which it is surrounded ; but it has been considerably improved during the last twenty years, and the fine plantations and beautiful gardens which adorn the banks of the river Cam are equal to any of the public walks of Oxford.

KATE.

I believe there are not any manufactures carried on at Cambridge ?

MRS. LESLIE.

None of importance. The town and neighbourhood has long

had a reputation for butter, which is exported to a considerable extent. The population of Cambridge is about 28,000.

WILLIE.

The principal rivers of Cambridge are the Nen, the Ouse, the Cam, and the Lark.

MARION.

The city of Ely, which is the next place for our consideration, is principally celebrated for its cathedral, which is a magnificent structure, displaying some very fine specimens of Saxon, Norman, and Gothic architecture. It was completely and beautifully restored about three years ago.

KATE.

I read yesterday that a church was built at Ely in very early Saxon times, and was greatly enriched by the contributions of the Danish king Canute.

HERBERT.

The royal Dane appears to have had a peculiar partiality for the fen district, and especially for the abbey church of Ely. It is recorded that he often visited it in company with his queen Emma, and partook of the boundless hospitality of the monks, and that on one occasion the queen made them a present of some magnificent altar cloths adorned with plates of gold.

MRS. LESLIE.

It is principally to the monks of Ely that we are indebted for what little we know of the character and disposition of this great conqueror. His affection for their abbey, his frequent visits, rich presents, and many little incidents which serve to give an insight into his character, were faithfully preserved and carefully detailed by them, and have been handed down to us by subsequent historians.

KATE.

I should like to know what sort of a person Canute was in manner and appearance; I always fancy him a tall, commanding-looking man, very dignified and stately.

MRS. LESLIE.

Your imagination is quite at fault, Katie, as he is described as a little thin man, and although very majestic upon great occasions, merry and jocose in private life, and exceedingly attached to all kinds of rural sports and simple pleasures. He was also very fond of listening to old songs and ballads, delighted in the company of the Saxon poets and musicians, and even wrote verses himself in the Anglo-Saxon dialect. A verse of a ballad said to be written by him, I remember learning when at school.

“Cheerful sang the monks of Ely,
As Canute the king was passing by.
'Row to the shore, knights,' said the king,
'And let us hear these churchmen sing.'”

These lines are supposed to have been suggested to his mind while rowing with some of his chiefs upon the river Nen, within hearing of the choir of Ely Abbey. But it is time we proceeded with our notice of the city of Ely.

HERBERT.

I am sorry to say that the triumph of the friends of Saxon independence under Hereward le Wake was but of short duration, as William the Conqueror soon renewed hostilities, and determined to maintain absolute and despotic dominion in the island. The superior skill of the Norman soldiers in the art of war overpowered resistance, and a complete victory was gained over the Anglo-Saxons, many of whom were taken prisoners and cruelly mutilated; some having their eyes put out, and others their hands and feet cut off, that they might serve as warnings to such as should presume to dispute the Conqueror's sway.

WILLIE.

Oh! how shocking! I cannot think how any one could be so cruel as to inflict such dreadful punishments.

MARION.

The city of Ely participated in some degree in the civil wars of

Stephen and the Empress Maude. It was also the scene of contest in the wars of John and the barons : in those of Charles the First the inhabitants supported the cause of the parliament.

KATE.

Is this city distinguished for anything in particular at the present day ?

MRS. LESLIE.

It is not, if we except its fine cathedral. Ely is surrounded by garden grounds, which supply fruit and vegetables for the Cambridge markets. Its population is about 6000. Can you mention any other towns of Cambridge, Willie ?

WILLIE.

Wisbeach, March, and Newmarket, which is partly in this county and partly in Suffolk.

MARION.

Wisbeach is a large commercial port situated in the Isle of Ely. It has a population of upwards of 10,000, and carries on an extensive foreign trade.

HERBERT.

The market town of March has a population of about 4000. It possesses a considerable local trade, and is an interesting place to the antiquary from the remains of Roman occupation which have been discovered. Newmarket, with a population of 3335, is principally celebrated for its horse-races, which were established or revived by Charles the Second, who was a frequent visitor to the place. The principal business of the town, apart from its local trade, is the training of racehorses, which is a source of great profit to the inhabitants.

WILLIE.

We have scarcely heard anything about old castles or monasteries in this county, mamma.

MRS. LESLIE.

There are but few remains of either, and such ruins as do exist are not associated with any particularly interesting event in the history of our country, therefore do not demand our notice. I see, my dear children, you are shutting up your note books, and as I also have arrived at the end of my memoranda, I have only to tell you that Hertfordshire is the next county for our consideration.

CONVERSATION XXVIII.

HERTFORDSHIRE.

SUBJECTS:— Derivation of Name. — Boundaries. — Size. — Interesting County to the Archæologist. — Ancient Inhabitants. — Memento of Cassivelaunus. — Character of Scenery. — Hastings the Danish Pirate. — River Lea covered with Danish Ships. — Clever Expedient of Alfred the Great. — Magnanimous Conduct of Alfred. — Hertford. — Historical Recollections. — Hertford Castle. — Trade of Town. — St. Albans. — Ancient Verulam. — Proto-Martyr of Christianity. — Magnificent Monastery. — Sense in which Roman Catholics use the Term “Religious.” — Abbey of St. Albans. — Contemplated Elevation to the Rank of Cathedral. — St. Michael’s Church. — Lord Bacon. — Early Precocity. — Patronage of Queen Elizabeth. — Lord Bacon a Reformer of Education. — His Deviation from Rectitude. — Human Wisdom insufficient to restrain in the Hour of Temptation. — Battles between Yorkists and Lancastrians. — Success of Margaret of Anjou. — Trade of St. Albans. — Hemel-Hempstead and other Towns. — Bishop’s Stortford. — King John’s Quarrel with the Pope. — Kingdom under an Interdict. — John’s Resignation of his Kingdom to the Pope. — Persecution of Protestants in Mary’s Reign. — Present State of Town. — Berkhamstead. — Abbot of St. Albans. — Obstruction of Progress of William the Conqueror. — William Cowper. — Trials of School Days. — Mental Malady. — Bishop’s Hatfield. — Scene of Queen Elizabeth’s First Privy Council.

“HAVE you ever observed, Herbert,” said Marion to her brother, “how many of the towns of England are named from some peculiarity of the fordable part of the rivers on which they are built? For instance, Hertfordshire, the county we are to examine this morning, is said to derive its name from the circumstance of the river Lea, which runs through the chief town, having been formerly

much frequented by harts, animals which abounded in that woody locality. Stafford, you remember, we found was derived from the river being fordable by means of a staff. Hereford implied a ford for an army, or the place where the army used to cross the Wye. I know there are many similar instances, but they do not occur to my mind at this moment."

HERBERT.

I have often been interested in noticing such a derivation. Deptford in Kent, I remember, was anciently Depe-ford, which implied that though the river Ravensbourne on which it stands was fordable, yet that it was deep and difficult to cross. But here is mamma.

MRS. LESLIE.

I have heard part of your conversation, my dear children, on the names of towns ending in *ford*. Like all other derivations, it is an interesting subject, and I am glad your attention has been attracted to it, as your being acquainted with such a peculiarity will give you an insight into the meaning of the names of all places which have that termination. We need not, however, dwell upon it now, as we shall meet with many instances of the kind in our subsequent conversations, and I see Willie is waiting with his map to tell us the boundaries of Hertfordshire.

WILLIE.

Hertfordshire is an inland county, bounded on the north by Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire; on the east by Essex; on the south by Middlesex; and on the west by Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire.

MARION.

The greatest length of this county is from north-east to south-west, a distance of thirty-nine miles; its greatest breadth is about twenty-six miles.

HERBERT.

Hertfordshire appears to possess higher claims to the notice of the archæologist than any of the counties we have noticed. It abounds in evidences of antiquity, and nearly every place is asso-

ciated with some interesting historical event. At the time of Cæsar's invasion it appears to have been inhabited by the Cassii, a warlike British tribe, commanded by Cassivelaunus, the brave chieftain who to the utmost of his power boldly resisted the Roman yoke. On his subsequent subjection his territories formed part of the Roman province of Flavia Cæsariensis, and during the Saxon Heptarchy belonged to the two kingdoms of Essex and Mercia.

MRS. LESLIE.

We have an interesting memento of the brave Cassivelaunus in the name of one of the beautiful mansions for which this county is celebrated. Cashiobury, the noble residence of the Earl of Essex, is said to derive its name from that valiant chieftain.

HERBERT.

Indeed, mamma! That is an interesting association. I do delight in anything that carries us back to the ages of antiquity.

MARION.

I suppose Hertfordshire can scarcely be called a picturesque county, as it has no lofty mountains nor beautiful lakes, but from all I have read of it I think its scenery must be very pleasing.

MRS. LESLIE.

Your idea is a very correct one. The surface of the county is gently undulating, finely wooded, and intersected with silvery streams, which, with the numerous seats of the nobility and gentry, combine to make a charming landscape, though devoid of what we style romantic beauty. Can you mention some of the rivers of this county, Willie?

WILLIE.

The Lea, the Colne, and the Stort are the principal ones. There are also several smaller streams.

HERBERT.

I never hear of the river Lea without thinking of good old Izaak Walton, "the prince of anglers" as he has been called, as it was his favourite haunt, where, to use his own words, he delighted in

“the most honest, ingenuous, quiet and harmless art of angling.” The scene of his charming work, the “Complete Angler,” is laid along the banks of the Lea between Tottenham and Ware.

MRS. LESLIE.

Such a reminiscence is extremely natural, my dear boy, for one who delights in that most “honest art” as much as you do, and I must confess that, little as I know about angling, the memory of good old Izaak is generally associated with my recollections of the stream he loved; but there is another and more important retrospection connected with the river Lea, which carries us back to the times of our favourite Saxon king.

WILLIE.

Oh! mamma, I shall be so glad to hear something more of the good king Alfred.

MRS. LESLIE.

Some time after the treaty Alfred entered into with Guthrum the Dane, another powerful Danish king, named Hastings, came to England, in the hope of getting Guthrum to assist him in attacking the country; but the converted Dane was faithful to the promises he had made to Alfred, and would not give Hastings the least encouragement, therefore he was obliged to give up his intention at that time; but several years after, when Guthrum was dead, he came again with a large army, and commenced a desperate war which was carried on in almost every part of England for nearly four years. A great number of his ships sailed up the Lea, as far as Ware, at which place he erected a strongly fortified camp, and laid his plans for the attack of the surrounding country.

KATE.

I thought the Lea was a small river, not navigable for ships of war?

MRS. LESLIE.

At the time of which we are speaking the Lea was both broader and deeper than it is now, as it was supplied with a much larger body of water from the undrained country; and the Danish ships

were constructed with flat bottoms, so that they did not draw as much water as one of our small trading vessels. I am now going to tell you of an expedient resorted to by Alfred, by which the Danish fleet in the river Lea was rendered completely useless.

KATE.

Pray go on, mamma! we are all attention.

MRS. LESLIE.

When Hastings was taking up his strong position on the Lea, Alfred was in a distant part of the country; but, hearing of the progress of the enemy, he marched his troops in that direction, and raised two fortresses, one on either side of the river, at a short distance from the Danish camp. He then caused three deep canals or channels to be dug from the Lea to the Thames, by which the water was diverted from its course, and the Danish fleet left aground.

KATE.

What a clever stratagem! I wonder what Hastings thought when he saw all his fine ships blocked in the mud?

MRS. LESLIE.

Though much chagrined at being foiled in his designs, he did not lose much time in unavailing lamentations, but, summoning his forces, proceeded westward, spreading terror and devastation in his course. He was, however, soon pursued by Alfred, who came up with the Danes on the borders of the Severn, near to Bridgenorth in Shropshire, when he so successfully blockaded them in their own encampments, that at length they were very glad to escape upon any terms, and left our island more impoverished than otherwise by the expedition. You will, I am sure, admire the noble conduct of our Saxon king more than ever when I tell you that on two occasions the wife and children of Hastings fell into his power, and that instead of detaining them as hostages, he loaded them with presents, and sent them back to his formidable foe.

HERBERT.

Well done, Alfred! That is what I call true magnanimity!

MRS. LESLIE.

We have already referred to Hertford, the county town, and mentioned the supposed derivation of its name. I shall now be glad to receive some information relative to its history.

MARION.

Hertford is a very ancient place, and distinguished during the Saxon Heptarchy as one of the principal seats of the kings of Essex. The town was rebuilt and fortified by Edward the Elder, after having been destroyed by the Danes. In the reign of John, it was besieged by Louis the Dauphin of France, and ultimately compelled to surrender.

KATE.

I think I have read that Queen Elizabeth was kept a prisoner in Hertford Castle during some part of the reign of Mary.

MRS. LESLIE.

The account of her imprisonment at Hertford is, I believe, only traditional, and most probably arose from the circumstance of her having occasionally resided there. After her accession to the throne she sometimes held her court at Hertford Castle.

MARION.

I have seen a sketch of the castle, taken about ten years ago, and I should think it must have been built long since the reign of Edward the Elder.

MRS. LESLIE.

The present castle, as it is called, though in fact the building is but a castellated mansion, is little more than two centuries old, but I believe some portions of it belonged to the ancient fortress. The town has happily no need of fortifications in the present day, but can carry on its trade of corn and malt without fear of molestation from a foreign foe. The population of Hertford is upwards of 6000.

HERBERT.

The time-honoured town of St. Alban's is, of course, the next place for us to notice ; indeed, in point of interest and antiquity, it ranks before the county town, and is one of the most attractive

places in England to the archæologist. Before the Roman invasion, its site was occupied by an important British town, said to be the metropolis of Cassivelaunus; and in little more than twenty years after its conquest, it was raised to the rank of a Roman city under the name of Verulam. Considerable portions of the Roman walls still exist, and it is thought they formerly included an area of a hundred acres.

MARION.

Was not Verulam destroyed by Boadicea, queen of the Iceni?

MRS. LESLIE.

In the general insurrection of the Britons under Boadicea, the city was partially demolished, but it was soon rebuilt, and for a long period the inhabitants enjoyed many privileges under the protection of the Romans.

WILLIE.

Why was the present town called St. Alban's, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Perhaps you remember my telling you some time ago, that before Christianity became the established religion of the Roman empire, those who became Christians were treated very cruelly by the Pagan emperors, who killed some, and tortured others?

WILLIE.

Yes, mamma; and I know you said the first Christian Roman emperor was Constantine the Great.

MRS. LESLIE.

I am glad you have remembered that so well; and now I must tell you that about three years before Constantine became emperor, another emperor, named Diocletian, was carrying on a persecution against the Christians, and that a man named Alban, a native of Verulam, who had served as a soldier in the Roman army, was put to death on account of his religion.

WILLIE.

You need not tell me any more, mamma, for I am sure that this man was called a saint after his death, and the place where he was born was named after him, St. Alban's.

KATE.

I wonder the Roman emperor allowed the city to be named in honour of a man who he thought deserved the punishment of death.

MRS. LESLIE.

The place was not named St. Alban's until long after the Roman government of Britain had ended. Nearly five hundred years after the martyrdom of Alban, during which time the Saxons had firmly established themselves in our island, had embraced Christianity, and erected many monasteries, Offa, King of Mercia, founded a monastery in honour of St. Alban at Holmhurst, close by the ancient Verulam, and the town was thenceforward called St. Alban's.

WILLIE.

Was it a large and beautiful monastery, like some of the others we have noticed?

MRS. LESLIE.

Indeed it was, Willie. It had magnificent apartments, in which several of our kings and queens were entertained, and the buildings belonging to it were so numerous, that they appeared more like a town than a religious house.

KATE.

I cannot think, mamma, why you call monasteries *religious* houses, when you have often told us that there was a great deal of wickedness practised in them, and very little real religion.

MRS. LESLIE.

I have used the term *religious*, though perhaps I should not have done so in the same sense as the members of the Church of Rome themselves use it. With them a "religious house" does not mean a Christian household, one in which the several members of it desire to live in the fear and love of God; but a monastic establishment, where the inmates are required to live according to the rules of some particular order, Benedictine, Franciscan, Dominican, or some other. Protestants consider the word *religious*

applicable only to character ; Catholics bestow it indiscriminately upon such as embrace a monastic life.

MARION.

I believe the abbey of St. Alban's is still a very fine building.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes ; it exceeds in length any other church or cathedral in Great Britain, and though externally its architecture is plain almost to rudeness, its vast dimensions, and appearance of extreme antiquity cannot fail to produce a feeling of astonishment in the mind of the beholder.

KATE.

Is this venerable abbey used for public worship now, mamma ?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, my dear. It is used as a parish church, and the inhabitants of St. Alban's have some hope of getting it elevated to the dignity of a cathedral. A petition has been presented to the government, praying that the town of St. Alban's may be made a bishop's see ; and 10,000*l.* have been raised by subscription towards restoring the abbey, and making it suitable for cathedral services.

KATE.

The old church of St. Michael's in this town contains a monument to the memory of the celebrated Lord Bacon, whose remains were interred there in 1626.

MRS. LESLIE.

We must not dismiss the memory of that illustrious philosopher with such a brief notice as that, Katie. He was born in London, and as it will be impossible for us, when we come to the metropolis, to enter into the lives of all the great men who owned it for their birth-place, we may as well speak of Lord Bacon in connection with the town with which some of his titles were associated, and where his mortal remains found their last resting-place.

HERBERT.

Francis, Lord Bacon, was born in London, January 22nd, 1561.

From his earliest childhood he displayed uncommon precocity of intellect, and as his reasoning powers became developed, exhibited such indications of a superior mind, that Queen Elizabeth used to call him her "young chancellor." In his thirteenth year, Francis Bacon entered the university of Cambridge, where his progress in all his studies was so extraordinary as to excite the astonishment of his masters. At the age of sixteen he went to Paris in the suite of Sir Amias Paulet, ambassador to that court, and travelled through several provinces of France, in order to study the manners and laws of that country. The result of his observations was a work on "The State of Europe," which laid the foundation of his future eminence.

MRS. LESLIE.

You have given us a very good account of the commencement of Bacon's notable career, but you have omitted to mention the circumstance of his being sent to England by Sir Amias Paulet, with an important message to the queen, and that he executed his commission greatly to the satisfaction of her Majesty.

KATE.

I hope she rewarded him in some better manner than by merely calling him fine names.

MRS. LESLIE.

After writing the work to which Herbert has referred, Bacon applied himself diligently to the study of the law, and in the twenty-eighth year of his age was made counsel extraordinary to the queen; but his subsequent promotion at court was retarded by his attachment to the unfortunate Earl of Essex, who had incurred the enmity of Sir Robert Cecil, first secretary of state.

MARION.

I thought Lord Bacon was principally celebrated as a reformer of the science of the age in which he lived.

MRS. LESLIE.

You thought quite right, my dear. To discriminate between truth and error was the end at which all his studies and efforts

aimed, and the free exercise of reason as opposed to the prejudices of education, the principle which he continually advocated.

HERBERT.

What a pity the memory of this great man should be sullied by any dishonourable act!

MARION.

You surprise me, Herbert! Is it possible Lord Bacon ever did anything dishonourable?

HERBERT.

I was as much surprised as you are, my dear sister, to find, when reading his life some time ago with Dr. Winstanley, that after attaining to the high honour of Lord Chancellor of England, Baron of Verulam, and Viscount of St. Alban's, Lord Bacon was accused of receiving money unjustly for the purchase of certain offices of state, and that pleading guilty to the charge, he was sentenced to pay a fine of 40,000*l.*, and to be imprisoned in the tower during the pleasure of King James, who had then succeeded to the throne. The humiliated baron was, however, soon set at liberty, and, if I remember right, his fine also was remitted.

KATE.

Then I should think the charge against him could not have been true. Do you think it could, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

His own admission of the fact puts that question beyond a doubt; but it is generally believed his culpability arose more from a weakness of character, which too readily yielded to the wishes and demands of others, than from a desire unjustly to enrich himself. We may, however, learn from the deviation from rectitude of this eminent philosopher, that the highest human wisdom is insufficient to keep a man from falling in the hour of temptation, and that his only safeguard is a strict adherence to the precepts of the Word of God, which would thus be as a lamp unto his feet, and a light unto his path. In our brief notice of the life of Lord Bacon, we have only to add that he did not long survive his

disgrace, and, after a short illness, died at Highgate, April 9th, 1626. His remains were interred in St. Michael's Church, St. Alban's, where a monument was erected to his memory by his secretary, Sir Thomas Meutys.

MARION.

The town and neighbourhood of St. Alban's was the scene of two desperate battles during the wars of the Yorkists and Lancastrians. The first engagement occurred on the 3rd of May, 1455, when Henry the Sixth was wounded, taken prisoner, and conveyed to London.

HERBERT.

Unless I greatly mistake, the next contest at St. Alban's was more favourable to the Lancastrian cause.

MARION.

It was. After having been engaged in several battles, Margaret of Anjou gained a signal victory at Wakefield, in Yorkshire, when the Duke of York was slain; and as she was advancing to London in triumph with her troops, she was met near St. Alban's by her deadly enemy, the Earl of Warwick, who brought with him the poor feeble-minded king. A sanguinary battle between the two armies followed, when the Lancastrians prevailed, and Warwick fled from the field, leaving behind his royal captive, who was thus restored to his queen and son.

KATE.

I dare say they were very glad to meet him again, although I should think his inactive disposition must have prevented their having any great respect for him.

MRS. LESLIE.

I fear it did, and although we can hardly wonder at it, I always feel sorry for the poor king, as he had many amiable qualities which would have adorned a more humble sphere of life, and there is reason to believe that his constitutional want of energy was increased by bodily disease. But it is time we had concluded our notice of St. Alban's. The principal trade of the town consists in

straw plaiting and the manufacture of straw hats. Its population is about 7000.

HERBERT.

Hemel-Hempstead, Hitchin, Watford, and Ware are market-towns of Hertfordshire, which with the hamlets attached to them form parishes of considerable extent, but they are devoid of any particular interest, historical or otherwise.

MARION.

Bishop's Stortford is a town of great antiquity, supposed to have been built upon a Roman site. It derives its name from its situation on the river Stort, and from the manor having been the property of the Bishops of London ever since Saxon times. In an account I read of this town, mention is made of a castle which was demolished by King John, in order to be revenged on Bishop William de St. Maria, one of the prelates who took an active part against him in his quarrel with Pope Innocent the Third.

KATE.

I remember John had a quarrel with the Pope, and that in consequence the kingdom was laid under an interdict, but I forget what it was all about.

MARION.

It arose from a difference of opinion between the king and clergy, as to the right of electing an archbishop of Canterbury. The Pope, to settle the dispute, insisted on the appointment of Stephen Langton, while John showed his contempt for the Pope by refusing to admit the man of his choice. To punish the king's opposition to his authority, the Pope laid the kingdom under an interdict.

WILLIE.

What was that, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

An interdict was a command, forbidding or interdicting all kinds of public religious worship. The churches were all shut up, the bells forbidden to be rung, the dead were refused Christian burial,

and were thrown into holes and ditches, and the sacraments were not allowed to be administered.

WILLIE.

Then the Pope punished all the people for the fault of the king. But pray tell us how it all ended.

MRS. LESLIE.

The quarrel lasted about five years, during which the Pope encouraged the barons to make war upon the king, and even offered the crown of England to the King of France, who in consequence mustered a large fleet and army at Boulogne, for the purpose of setting sail for England. John seeing the desperate nature of the case, began to think he had better agree to the wishes of the Pope, and consented to receive the archbishop of his appointment; but the Pope by that time had increased his demands, and would only agree to forbid the King of France to invade England upon condition of John's consenting to give up the kingdom to him, and only holding it as his vassal.

HERBERT.

What a coward John must have been to agree to such ignominious terms!

MRS. LESLIE.

We often see tyranny and cowardice united in one individual. But I see Willie expects me to finish my account of this extraordinary transaction. When the messenger whom the Pope had sent to John had frightened him into submission, the king falling on his knees, in the presence of a large concourse of people, held up his hands between those of the Pope's legate, or messenger, and solemnly swore to give up his kingdom to the Church of Rome, and to the Pope his master, and to pay an annual tribute of a thousand marks for permission to govern England under subjection to the Pope.

HERBERT.

It makes me quite indignant to think that a sovereign of England should have made such a shameful concession to a Roman pontiff.

grant them their ancient privileges. Thus situated, William thought it advisable to take the required oath, which I need not tell you he never kept, and when firmly established on the throne he bestowed the castle and manor of Berkhamstead upon his half-brother, the Earl of Morton.

KATE.

What a shameful breach of faith! I would rather take the word of an honest peasant, than the oath of such a king.

MARION.

Berkhamstead appears to have been the occasional residence of several of our sovereigns, but to my mind the most interesting of all its associations is its having been the birth-place of my favourite Cowper.

MRS. LESLIE.

We have only time this morning for a very short sketch of the life of that truly Christian poet.

MARION.

William Cowper was born at the rectory-house, Berkhamstead, on the 15th of November, 1731. His father, Dr. Cowper, was rector of the parish and chaplain to George the Second, and his mother was connected with some of the most noble families in the kingdom. Before Cowper was six years old he had the misfortune to lose his excellent mother, an affliction which was keenly felt by him in all his after life. His touching lines on the receipt of her picture record the intensity of his sorrow upon that occasion; and even fifty years after her death he writes, "not a week passes (perhaps I might with equal veracity say not a day) in which I do not think of her: such was the impression her tenderness made upon me, though the opportunity she had for showing it was so short."

KATE.

I think he was sent to a boarding-school after his mother's death, was he not?

MARION.

Yes; and while there, he suffered greatly from the cruel treat-

ment of one of the elder boys. In later years, when referring to that period, he used to say, he remembered perfectly feeling such a dread of that particular boy, that he was afraid to lift his eyes upon him higher than his knees; and that he used to know him better by his shoe-buckles than by any other part of his dress.

WILLIE.

Poor little fellow! How I pity him!

HERBERT.

And how I wish I had been one of his school-mates! I would soon have let that great coward know it would not do to frighten and ill-treat a timid little boy!

MRS. LESLIE.

Certainly no conduct can be more reprehensible than that which inspires a child with terror. Cowper was constitutionally nervous and sensitive, and therefore required the most kind and gentle treatment. It has been thought probable that the frightful malady which embittered so many of the poet's after years may have been engendered in a great measure by the constant alarm in which he was kept at that early period of his life.

MARION.

Cowper's mental affliction appears to have been more a kind of religious melancholy than downright insanity.

MRS. LESLIE.

It was; and yet I scarcely like to hear of such a thing as religious melancholy, which appears to me a contradiction in terms. The wisest of men, you know, tells us that "Wisdom's ways are ways of pleasantness and all her paths are peace." There was certainly a morbid predisposition in Cowper's mind which at times obscured the glory and grace of the gospel, and made him a prey to the most distressing apprehensions.

HERBERT.

And yet what a vein of humour runs through some of his charming productions. His epistle to Joseph Hill, Esq., and some other of his minor poems, are full of playful satire.

MRS. LESLIE.

Indeed they are. With a mind so often ill at ease, it is astonishing to see how much and how well the poet wrote. His letters to Hayley, Lady Hesketh, and others, are choice specimens of wit and vivacity. The last six years of Cowper's life were some of his most gloomy ones. He was again afflicted with his distressing malady, which with very slight intermissions attended him to the last. He died at East Dereham in Norfolk, on the 25th of April, 1800, having lost his faithful friend and nurse Mrs. Unwin, at the same place three years before. And here we must leave our notice of Berkhamstead, merely remarking that at the present day it is a pleasant country town, containing upwards of 3000 inhabitants.

MARION.

Bishop's Hatfield is another pleasant town of Hertfordshire, containing a population of nearly 4000, and chiefly memorable in history as the place where the Princess Elizabeth was kept in the custody of Sir Thomas Pope, during the latter part of the reign of her sister Mary. On the intelligence of Mary's death, Elizabeth held her first privy council at the palace in that town.

HERBERT.

The people did not let their Protestant queen remain long in retirement at Hatfield, but immediately set out in crowds to escort her to London. At Highgate she was met by the bishops, and recognising Bonner among them, it is said she turned away her head with an undisguised expression of horror on her countenance.

WILLIE.

I suppose she soon had that wicked man put to death?

MRS. LESLIE.

No, my dear; although Elizabeth so justly disliked him, she allowed him to go unpunished, until some time after, refusing to acknowledge her as head of the Church, he was put into prison, where he remained till his death. We have had a long conversation this morning, and I have now only time to say, I hope you will all have a great deal to tell me next week about Essex.

CONVERSATION XXIX.

ESSEX.

SUBJECTS:— Derivation of Name. — Boundaries. — Size. — Ancient Inhabitants. — Alliance with Romans. — Total Subjection. — Unimportant Islands. — Chelmsford. — Colchester. — Its great Antiquity. — Evidences of Occupation by Romans. — Depredations of Danes. — Foundation of British Navy. — Civil Wars of John and the Barons. — Loyalty of Townspeople to Queen Mary. — Burning of Protestants. — The Blessing of perfect Religious Liberty. — Siege of Colchester in Civil Wars of Charles the First. — Colchester Castle. — Ancient Manufactures. — Celebrated for Oysters. — Barking. — Fire-bell Gate. — Curfew. — Barking Abbey. — Power anciently possessed by Heads of Monastic Houses. — Harwich. — Saffron Walden, and other Towns. — Waltham Abbey. — Waltham Cross. — Southend. — Epping. — Hainault. — Fairlop Oak. — Tilbury Fort. — Invincible Armada. — Intrepidity of Queen Elizabeth. — Result of Spanish Expedition.

“I AM so much obliged to you, Miss Selby,” said Willie to his governess, who was leaving the room just as Mrs. Leslie entered; then turning to his mother, he continued, “Do you know, mamma, Miss Selby has been telling me that the word Essex means East Saxons, and that the people who used to live in the county we are going to talk about this morning were so called because they lived in the eastern part of the country?”

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, my dear, and Wessex signifies West Saxons, a name given to the inhabitants who lived in the west.

WILLIE.

But, mamma, there is no such county as Wessex.

H H

MRS. LESLIE.

True, Willie. Essex and Wessex were both kingdoms of the Saxon Heptarchy. The *kingdom* of Essex contained the *county* of Essex, as well as some parts of Hertfordshire and Middlesex. The kingdom of Wessex included several of the western counties. It is not the kingdom, but the *county* of Essex, you know, which is to engage our attention this morning. You may now open your atlas and point out its boundaries.

WILLIE.

Essex is bounded on the north by Suffolk and Cambridgeshire; on the east and south-east by the North Sea, or German Ocean; on the south by Kent, from which it is separated by the river Thames; and on the west by Middlesex and Hertfordshire.

KATE.

The greatest length of this county is from east to west, and in that direction it measures about sixty miles. From north to south is about fifty miles.

MARION.

At the time of Cæsar's invasion this county was inhabited by a British tribe called Trinobantes, which entered into alliance with him, and for a time was governed by its own kings or chiefs, who acted as deputies for the Romans.

HERBERT.

Cunobelin was one of the most powerful of the kings of the Trinobantes; some coins of his which have been discovered show that the civilisation of Britain had commenced even at that early period. When the invasion of the island was renewed in the reign of Claudius, the Trinobantes were entirely subdued, and their city was made the seat of a Roman colony, which was, however, destroyed by the Britons under Boadicea; but on her total defeat by Suetonius, this county became entirely subject to the Roman power, and was subsequently included in the province of Flavia Cæsariensis.

KATE.

What a number of small islands there are belonging to Essex, mamma!

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes ; almost the whole of the sea-coast, as well as the banks of the Thames, is composed of marshy land, and being intersected by creeks and narrow channels, numerous islands are formed, which in most instances are embanked all round. The largest of these islands is Foulness, which is about six miles long, and two and a half broad. The islands of Canvey, Wallasea, and Mersea are, you see, the next in size.

WILLIE.

Are these little islands inhabited, mamma ?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, my dear ; but their population is small and scattered. The island of Foulness has but 640 inhabitants, whose principal occupation is agriculture. But we must not linger upon these unimportant islands. You may as well at once mention the county town.

WILLIE.

Chelmsford.

KATE.

This town was anciently called Chelmersford, from its situation near a ford over the river Chelmer. It appears to have been a very unimportant place until the reign of Henry the First, when a bridge was built over the Cam, which here joins the Chelmer, after which the town rapidly increased in size and population.

MARION.

Chelmsford appears to be a handsome and pleasant town ; but it is singularly deficient in historical interest.

HERBERT.

Indeed, you may well say so. I do not think a single memorable event is recorded as having transpired there. The town, which contains a population of upwards of 6000, is principally celebrated for the races which take place annually on Gallywood Common, about two miles distant.

MRS. LESLIE.

If Chelmsford is deficient in interest, Colchester will, at least, make up for it, as there are few towns which will better repay the labour of research, whether our investigation go back to the ages of antiquity, or confine itself to the records of comparatively modern times.

HERBERT.

We will go back to the very earliest authentic history of our island, dear mamma ; and we shall find that the place where Colchester now stands was occupied by a British town, which was the residence of Cunobelin, and the capital of the Trinobantes.

KATE.

I believe it afterwards became a Roman town.

MRS. LESLIE.

It is generally supposed to have been the Camalodunam of the Romans ; and, from the number and beauty of the antiquities which have been discovered, we have reason to conclude it was a highly civilised and luxurious Roman city. Baths, tessellated pavements, choice porcelain, rings, bracelets, and coins innumerable, are among the specimens of Roman art which have been brought to light by excavation. If any other evidence were wanting to establish the belief of the site of Colchester having been occupied by an important Roman town, it would be found in the fact that the castle, some of the churches, and many fragments of ancient walls, are chiefly built of Roman brick.

HERBERT.

The name Colne-ceaster, which the Saxons gave the place, proves that it was fortified during the time of the Romans. Colne-ceaster signifying a fortress on the river Colne.

KATE.

I read yesterday that this was one of the towns which Alfred the Great gave to Guthrum.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes ; the whole county of Essex was included in the Danelagh

or Danish territory, and during the lifetime of Guthrum was in a comparative state of peace ; but on the death of that faithful Dane, large bodies of his countrymen came over under the command of Hastings, surrounded the coast with their ships, took possession of Colchester as one of their principal strongholds, and sallied forth into the surrounding country, committing the most dreadful depredations.

WILLIE.

As Alfred was such a wise king, I wonder he did not place his own ships all along the coast, and prevent the Danes from landing.

MRS. LESLIE.

You forget, Willie, that in the early part of Alfred's reign he had not any vessels worth calling ships. The Saxons knew nothing of the art of ship-building, and that was one of the principal causes of the Danes gaining such advantage over them ; but the wise and good Alfred seeing in what the power of his enemies consisted, resolved not to be behind them in that respect, therefore sent for some foreign shipwrights, and caused vessels to be built in every respect greatly superior to those of the Danes. The vessels were constructed upon a plan of Alfred's own invention ; and so anxious was he to get his fleet ready for use that he went daily to the shipyard, and with his crown of gold upon his head worked in the midst of his shipwrights. Before the close of his reign he had the satisfaction of seeing more than a hundred of his ships floating on the sea.

MARION.

Did he carry out Willie's idea of defence in planting them along the coast ?

MRS. LESLIE.

Alfred's royal fleet was divided into squadrons, some of which were stationed at different ports round the island, some kept cruising about between this country and the continent, while others guarded the outlet from the Baltic Sea. By these means he was enabled in a great measure to repel the attacks of his troublesome invaders, and he then laid the foundation of that naval greatness which now constitutes Britain mistress of the seas.

HERBERT.

In the civil wars of John, Colchester was taken by Louis, the Dauphin of France, whose soldiers unfurled the banner of their country upon the castle walls; but the town did not long submit to the disgrace, for on the death of John, which happened soon after, the barons submitted to their youthful sovereign, Henry the Third, and expelled the Dauphin from the kingdom.

MARION.

I met the other day with a notice of this town which very much surprised me. It is said that, on the death of Edward the Sixth, the inhabitants of Colchester supported the cause of the Princess Mary, against the usurpation of Lady Jane Grey, with so much earnestness, that soon after Mary obtained possession of the crown she paid a visit to the town, on purpose to evince her gratitude for the attachment of its inhabitants, who received her with the most lively demonstrations of rejoicing.

KATE.

I am sure it must have been all pretence! They could not really have loved such a cross, ill-natured queen!

MRS. LESLIE.

They had not had much opportunity of becoming acquainted with her character, and some of her first acts as queen placed it in rather a favourable light; but whatever hopes were raised in consequence were soon dispelled, and it became evident that she was a morose, unyielding bigot to the Roman Catholic religion.

HERBERT.

The way in which Mary displayed her gratitude to the people of Colchester, for their assistance in placing her on the throne, was by the burning of Protestants! Seventeen were brought to the stake in this town alone, five of whom were women!

MARION.

It makes one shudder to hear of such atrocities!

MRS. LESLIE.

The mention of such facts ought to inspire us with the deepest

gratitude to God for the national expulsion of a religion which upheld such dreadful deeds; and for the privilege of being permitted to worship Him according to the dictates of our own consciences (to borrow the beautiful imagery of the prophet) under our own vine and under our own fig-tree, none daring to make us afraid.

HERBERT.

In the civil wars of Charles the First, Colchester sustained the horrors of a siege. The troops of Fairfax invested the town, which was obstinately defended for eleven weeks, when the royalists being reduced to the greatest extremities were compelled to surrender. Two of their leaders, Sir Charles Lucas and Sir George Lisle, having been condemned by a council of war, were shot at a short distance from the castle walls for their loyalty to their unhappy sovereign.

MARION.

What wholesale devastation Cromwell caused! It appears that in Colchester alone upwards of 300 houses and other buildings were destroyed during the siege; and before the army of Fairfax quitted the town the fortifications were completely dismantled, the inhabitants being obliged to supply the necessary tools for their destruction.

HERBERT.

I believe Colchester Castle is still a very massive structure.

MRS. LESLIE.

It is; and to its great solidity alone we are indebted for its preservation. In the year 1683 it was purchased by a Mr. John Wheeley, for the purpose of pulling it down, and disposing of the materials, by which he expected to realise a considerable profit; but the immense thickness of the walls, and the strength of the cement which kept them together, rendered so much labour necessary that it was found the sale of the materials would not defray the expense of destruction, and so the project was abandoned.

HERBERT.

With all due honour to the commercial spirit of Mr. John Wheeley I must say I am glad his speculation failed. He must

have been a thorough anti-archæologist to have wished to destroy such a venerable relic of antiquity.

MARION.

Colchester was one of the towns in which the Flemings settled when they were driven from Flanders in 1571 by the persecution of the government. They introduced the manufacture of baizes, which has since been discontinued; and the trade of the town is now principally dependent on the oyster fishery, which is carried on to a great extent. Colchester oysters are much esteemed on account of the fineness of their flavour. The population of Colchester is upwards of 19,000.

KATE.

Barking is a town of great antiquity, containing nearly 10,000 inhabitants. It was formerly celebrated for its magnificent abbey, but the only portion now remaining is the gateway tower, known by the name of the "Fire-bell Gate," from its having been the place where the curfew-bell used to be rung at eight o'clock at night, by command of William the Conqueror, when the people of the town were obliged to put out their fires and candles.

MARION.

I think William might have been satisfied with tyrannising over his subjects in great matters, without interfering with their household regulations. What a hardship we should think it of a winter's evening to have a pleasant party broken up at such an early hour, by the sound of the dismal curfew-bell!

MRS. LESLIE.

The establishment of the curfew-bell appears at first sight nothing else than an arbitrary infringement on the liberties of the people, but a little reflection will show us that there was more necessity for such a law than for many of the oppressive ones enacted by the Conqueror. At that period most of the houses were built entirely of wood, and therefore much more likely to be accidentally set on fire than those constructed at the present day; and if such a combustible material were once ignited, we know it would have been almost impossible to stay its progress. It appears,

therefore, little more than a precaution necessary to public safety that all the fires and lights should be extinguished at a certain hour. The length of the day was not at all curtailed by such enactment, as the same bell which rang at eight at night to order the people to put their fires out, also rang at four in the morning as a signal that they might be lighted.

HERBERT.

I have read that the law was also instituted in order to prevent conspiracies which were supposed to shun the day, and generally to be concocted around the midnight fire.

WILLIE.

Was the curfew just like other bells, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

The curfew was not a bell at all, Willie, but an instrument made of copper or iron by which fires were extinguished. The word was derived from the French *couvre-feu*, which means fire-cover. What is called the curfew-bell was merely a bell tolled at the time the curfew was to be used.

WILLIE.

Oh! how pleasant it is to know such things! But can you tell me, mamma, what sort of a looking thing the curfew was, and how the people used it?

MRS. LESLIE.

In appearance it very much resembled a common Dutch oven without a bottom. At the time of which we are speaking, there were no such things as stoves and grates in use, but the fires, which were all of wood, were kindled on the hearth. At the sound of the bell it was usual to rake the wood and embers as closely as possible together at the back of the hearth, and place the curfew over them, of course putting the open part against the back of the chimney, by which means the air was excluded, and the fire soon died away.

MARION.

In reading an account of Barking, I was much struck with the amount of power over the community formerly possessed by the heads of monastic houses. The celebrated abbey we have mentioned

was founded in the year 670 for nuns of the Benedictine order, and was governed by a succession of abbesses of noble birth ; and really the services exacted of the tenants of the manor by these lady abbesses seem almost beyond belief at the present day. One of the conditions by which the manor was held was that every tenant should provide a horse and man, and hold himself in readiness to attend the abbess and her steward on any journey within the compass of the four seas, and that at his death his best horse and accoutrements should be hers. Another condition forbade a tenant to sell his own cattle without permission from the abbess, — required him to take long journeys at his own expense on the business of the convent, — and obliged him to pay a fine if his daughter married beyond the limits of the manor.

HERBERT.

In Norman times, between the king and clergy, the people must have had a pretty time of it !

MRS. LESLIE.

Indeed, they must ! But it is time we had concluded our account of the ancient town of Barking.

KATE.

Harwich is a seaport town of Essex, and is also celebrated as a bathing-place. The scenery in the neighbourhood is extremely beautiful, and attracts many visitors in the summer season. Harwich has a fine dockyard, and ship-building is carried on to a considerable extent. Its population is between 4000 and 5000.

MARION.

Saffron Walden, Maldon, and Romford, are market towns of this county, but there is nothing particularly interesting in their associations. Waltham Abbey is a small market town situated on the river Lea, and chiefly celebrated for the ruins of a beautiful abbey, in which the body of the unfortunate Harold, who fell at the battle of Hastings, is said to have been interred. The parish of Waltham Abbey is extensive, and the gunpowder mills established by government give employment to many of its inhabitants.

HERBERT.

On the opposite side of the Lea stands Waltham Cross, the most beautiful of all the monuments raised by Edward the First to the memory of his queen, Eleanor. Like many others it had almost fallen to decay, but about twenty years ago was judiciously restored.

KATE.

Southend is a quiet little town on the southern coast, of late years somewhat celebrated as a bathing-place; and Epping, a small inland town, noted for sausages and butter.

HERBERT.

Epping gives title to Epping Forest, which was formerly a considerable tract of waste land in the south-west part of the county, but the greater part of which is now enclosed, and embellished with gentlemen's seats, villas, and plantations. This district and the neighbouring forest of Hainault were formerly much frequented by the citizens of London, who resorted thither to enjoy the pleasures of archery and other rural pastimes. In Hainault Forest formerly stood the famous oak known by the name of the "Fairlop Oak," under whose gigantic branches a fair was annually held. About thirty years ago this ancient monarch of the woods was cut down, after having withstood the assaults of wind and weather for nine or ten centuries.

MRS. LESLIE.

There is a small village in this county which I am surprised has not been mentioned. It is situated on the banks of the Thames, and its most memorable reminiscence is connected with the reign of Elizabeth.

WILLIE.

Do you mean Tilbury, mamma? I remember papa pointing out a curious looking place when we were going to Ramsgate last summer, which he called Tilbury Fort. I know he said something about queen Elizabeth, and some great Spanish ships, but I forget what it was.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, Willie, that was the place I was thinking of. The great

Spanish ships were coming to invade England, and Tilbury was one of the places where a large number of soldiers were encamped in order to oppose them. The queen herself appeared among them on horseback, and made such a noble speech that they felt ready to lay down their lives for such a glorious queen.

WILLIE.

Do you know what she said, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

It is some time since I read the account, my dear, but I remember she told them, that though she was but a weak and feeble woman, yet that she had the heart of a king, and of a king of England too; and that rather than allow the king of Spain, or any other prince of Europe, to do dishonour to her kingdom, she would herself take up arms in its defence. She also encouraged her troops to deeds of valour, by telling them that she herself would be their general, and would take care to reward every man according to his deserts.

HERBERT.

What a piece of impudence it was for Philip of Spain to call his great lumbering ships the Invincible Armada! He soon found out, however, to his cost that they had not a chance against our own little fleet, commanded by such brave and skilful men as Drake, Hawkins, and Frobisher!

MRS. LESLIE.

The Spaniards on that occasion learnt a lesson that has never been forgotten. It is true they lost many of their ships by tempestuous weather, but yet they saw enough of the skill and bravery of the English to deter them from ever attempting another invasion. I think we have now touched upon most of the places of note in Essex, and I need only tell you that Middlesex will be the next county for our consideration.

CONVERSATION XXX.

MIDDLESEX.

SUBJECTS:—Signification of Name. — Boundaries. — Size. — Chief Rivers. — Ancient Inhabitants. — Character of Scenery. — London. — Opinions as to Derivation of Name. — Chief Cause of Mercantile Greatness. — Revolt of Britons under Boadicea. — Ancient City Walls. — London Stone. — Roman Antiquities. — Extent of Metropolis. — Population. — Earliest Christian Church. — Old St. Paul's. — Incongruities without and within. — Present Cathedral. — Paul's Cross. — Memory of Monastic Establishments preserved in present Names of Places. — Paternoster Row as it was and is. — Westminster. — Caxton. — First Printing Press. — The Influence of Printing on the Roman Catholic Religion. — Tardy Progress of the Art on its first Introduction. — Present teeming State of the Press. — Increase in Demand for Literature within last Century. — Signification of Westminster. — Westminster Abbey. — Ancient Palace. — Westminster Hall and its Associations. — New Houses of Parliament. — Whitehall and its Associations. — Execution of Charles the First. — Preservation of Statue. — Tower of London and its Associations. — Principal Attractions. — Royal Palaces. — Present Condition of Metropolis. — The great Pestilence. — Fire of London. — London in Olden Time. — Introduction of Gas. — Establishment of Public Conveyances. — Rural Festivities in the Strand. — Erection of May-Poles. — May Fair and Pall Mall. — Memorials of Ancient Customs. — The Strand as it is and was. — Manufactures of the Metropolis. — Spitalfields. — Metropolitan Police. — The dark Side of the Picture. — Necessity for Christian Prayer and Exertion. — Unimportant Towns of Middlesex. — Chelsea Hospital.

"I EXPECT you have been making friends with Miss Selby again, Willie," said Mrs. Leslie, as she observed the air of satisfaction with which her youngest boy took his place beside her, and opened the map of Middlesex.

WILLIE.

No, indeed, mamma, I found it out myself! At least, almost by myself.

MRS. LESLIE.

Found what out, Willie?

WILLIE.

Oh! I forgot you did not know what I was thinking of, mamma! Why, that Middlesex meant Middle Saxons; and that the people who lived in the county of that name were called so because they lived between, or in the middle of the east, west, and south Saxons, and of those in the north called Mercians. The name Sussex was taken from South Saxons, you know, mamma.

MRS. LESLIE.

Very good, Willie. You are, my dear children, all aware what a vast amount of important matter we have before us this morning; therefore, without further delay, one of you had better state the boundaries and size of Middlesex.

KATE.

Middlesex is bounded on the north by Hertfordshire; on the east by Essex, from which it is separated by the river Lea; on the south by Surrey, from which it is separated by the Thames; and on the west by Buckinghamshire. Middlesex is the smallest of all the English counties, except Rutland. Its extreme length from north-east to south-west is reckoned to be twenty-eight miles. Its greatest breadth is about seventeen miles. In density of population it very far exceeds every other county of England.

WILLIE.

The chief rivers of Middlesex are the Thames, the Lea, and the Coln.

MRS. LESLIE.

In addition to the natural rivers of this county, the New River, an artificial stream of water for the supply of the metropolis, is especially deserving of notice. It is brought from springs in Hertfordshire, is nearly forty miles in length, and is spanned by 215 bridges.

HERBERT.

Middlesex was anciently included in the territories of the Trinobantes. It was conquered by the Romans in the reign of Claudius, and on the subsequent division of the island, was comprehended in the Roman province of Flavia Cæsariensis. Under the Saxons this county is generally considered to have formed part of the kingdom of Essex.

MARION.

The scenery of some of the rural parts of Middlesex is of a pleasing character, and diversified by hill and dale, but like that of Hertfordshire, falls short of picturesque beauty. The land is exceedingly productive, and large tracts are laid out as kitchen and nursery gardens, for the supply of the metropolis.

WILLIE.

LONDON is the county town of Middlesex. It is also the capital of the British empire, and the most important city in the world.

MARION.

I am sure we shall be puzzled to know what to say, or rather what to leave unsaid, about "Opulent, enlarged, and still increasing London," as Cowper has it.

MRS. LESLIE.

Suppose we first turn our attention to the derivation of its name.

HERBERT.

So many different opinions have been expressed by ancient writers on the subject, that it seems impossible to arrive at any satisfactory conclusion.

MRS. LESLIE.

The impression of the greater number of learned authors appears to be, that it is derived from Llan Dian, which in ancient British signifies the temple of Diana; a derivation supported by the circumstance of a temple to that goddess having once stood upon the site now occupied by St. Paul's: our old friend Camden, however, seems more inclined to derive it from Llong Dinum, or a "city of ships," which seems equally plausible; but notwithstand-

ing all that has been said and written on the subject, it is still, as you say, a point involved in great uncertainty.

KATE.

I cannot think why London should have outstripped every other place in size and commercial importance.

MRS. LESLIE.

Its mercantile pre-eminence is without doubt to be ascribed to its unrivalled situation on a great navigable river, by which it possesses perfect facility for commerce with every country in the world; while its being nearly sixty miles distant from the sea, gives it all the security from foreign invasion of an inland town.

HERBERT.

From the time of its earliest history London, or Londinium, as it was called by the Romans, appears to have possessed the germ of its present mercantile greatness. It is mentioned by Tacitus as a town much frequented by merchants, although at the time of Cæsar's invasion, it was so inconsiderable a place as not to be even mentioned by him.

MRS. LESLIE.

We have but little notice of Londinium until the year 62, when the Britons revolted under Boadicea, and massacred great numbers of the inhabitants. In the reign of Constantine the Great, the city was surrounded by a wall twenty feet high, which enclosed a space of three miles in circumference, and it was further fortified by fifteen towers forty feet in height. Some few fragments of Roman wall are still to be seen in different parts of the city, and a Roman mile-stone, known as London Stone, is built into a wall of the church of St. Swithin in Cannon Street. These are the only memorials of the conquering Romans now standing; but it is said, that the tessellated pavements, urns, coins, and domestic utensils, which have been brought to light by excavation, are sufficient to fill a good-sized museum.

KATE.

Just look, mamma, at the statement in the population returns for 1851. You see it gives the population of London as 127,869! I thought London contained more than two millions of inhabitants.

MRS. LESLIE.

The statement in the census table refers only to the city, which is a very small part of the extensive district known by the general name of London, or the metropolis, and which comprehends an area of nearly twenty miles in circumference, including the city of Westminster, and the populous suburbs of Paddington, Lambeth, Pimlico, Chelsea, Kensington, Bayswater, Hammersmith, Stepney, Limehouse, Poplar, Rotherhithe, and many other surrounding places. In this extended sense, London is computed to contain about 2,100,000 inhabitants, a population more than double that of England and Wales at the period of the Norman Conquest. I am not aware that a more accurate statement can be arrived at.

MARION.

Unlike many of the cities we have noticed, the records of London are very deficient in interest during the Saxon, Norman, and early Plantagenet periods, and relate principally to the foundation of religious houses, which were by far the most numerous class of establishments before the Reformation. The earliest Christian church in London was said to have been erected by Ethelbert, about the year 610, on the site now occupied by the cathedral of St. Paul's. The first structure, as well as the one which succeeded, was destroyed by fire; the latter conflagration happening in the reign of the Conqueror, when the late cathedral, known as Old St. Paul's, was commenced. That vast edifice, which is described by an old historian as "wonderful for length and breadth," was nearly two centuries in building, and remained until the great fire of London in 1666, when it shared the fate of its predecessors. The first stone of the present magnificent cathedral, built by Sir Christopher Wren, was laid on the 21st of June, 1675, and the edifice was raised in thirty-five years from the time of its commencement.

KATE.

From an account I met with of Old St. Paul's, I find that it was a much larger building than the present cathedral. Some of the

architecture was described as very fine ; but the general beauty of the whole was said to have been marred by the incongruities of style of the various portions.

MRS. LESLIE.

Far greater inconsistency prevailed within. Instead of the stillness and order which now universally characterise our places of public worship, Old St. Paul's daily presented a scene similar to that which was censured by our Lord as a "place of merchandise," and "a den of thieves." The nave of the cathedral was used as a common thoroughfare, along which venders of fish, bread, fruit, meat, &c., carried their goods, and even led their horses, mules, and other beasts of burden, while divine service was performing in the choir. The cathedral, moreover, was a resort for idlers and loungers of all descriptions, from the gaudily attired fop, who strutted about eager to see and to be seen, to the notorious pickpocket, who frequented the place in order to pursue his dishonest practices.

MARION.

What a very odd idea such a picture gives one of the decorum of our ancestors ! But I suppose it was many centuries ago since such things were tolerated.

MRS. LESLIE.

They were of every-day occurrence, even in the time of Elizabeth, and scarcely seem to have excited general reprehension ; and so late as the reign of William and Mary, an act was passed forbidding, under penalty of 20*l.*, the practice of "walking and talking in St. Paul's."

HERBERT.

You have many times seen the present cathedral of St. Paul's, Willie. The cost of building that noble pile was 747,954*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.*, which was equal to 1,222,437*l.* of our present money. How should you think that immense sum of money was raised ?

WILLIE.

I dare say by the sale of indulgences.

HERBERT.

No, Willie. The present cathedral was not commenced until

the reign of Charles the Second, more than a century after indulgences and all other popish customs had been done away. The money was raised almost entirely by a tax on every chaldron of coal that was brought into the port of London, and, as a humorous writer observes, the cathedral "deserves to wear, as it does, a smoky coat in consequence."

KATE.

I have heard of Paul's Cross as a very noted place. It was a kind of pulpit out of doors, was it not, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

The cross, which was of very ancient date, and was used principally as a place for public meetings, proclamations, and such kind of purposes, stood on the north side of the churchyard, close to the entrance to Canon Alley. A pulpit was at some unknown time attached to it, from which sermons were preached in the open air. Sometimes the royal family formed part of the congregation, and occupied a covered gallery which was raised for their accommodation.

HERBERT.

Paul's Cross appears to have been a very convenient and time-serving appendage to the existing government, whose principles and opinions the preachers advocated, whether right or wrong. In the reign of Henry the Eighth, the Pope's supremacy was ignored from the pulpit of Paul's Cross, and his holiness declared to be nothing more than a simple bishop of Rome; while in the days of Mary, anathemas were thundered against Protestants, and adorations made to the Pope; and again on Elizabeth's accession, the papacy was rejected, and protestantism zealously maintained.

MARION.

I was much amused the other day in observing how curiously the memory of the monastic establishments of London in olden time has been preserved in the names of some of the principal places of the metropolis at the present day. Thus, Blackfriars tells of a monastery for Black or Dominican Friars, which formerly existed in that locality. Covent Garden, anciently called

Convent Garden, was once occupied by a garden and fields belonging to a convent. The street called the Minories reminds us of an abbey of poor nuns called Minors; while Paternoster Row, and Ave Maria Lane, are significant of the routine of unmeaning superstitions practised in those monastic establishments.

MRS. LESLIE.

We might multiply instances of the kind; but your mention of Paternoster Row suggests a thought which it may be well to dwell upon for a minute or two. I doubt whether there is any place in our country whose present aspect contrasts more favourably with what it once was, than this narrow, dingy row. Four or five centuries ago, it was the principal mart for the sale of pater-nosters, crucifixes, and a variety of sacred relics, the use of which enthralled their possessors in the chains of ignorance and superstition: it is now the greatest book-mart in the world, and daily issues thousands of publications, which have for their tendency the emancipation and enlightenment of the human mind.

HERBERT.

Such reflections naturally take us on to Westminster, where good old Caxton set up the first printing-press, in the precincts of the abbey.

WILLIE.

Oh! mamma, I hope you have a great deal to tell us about the first English printer! Whatever should we have done without the clever art he introduced?

MRS. LESLIE.

Very little is known about the early life of Caxton, except that he was born in the Weald of Kent, about the year 1412, and received a better education than was usual at that period. When nearly thirty years old, he left England, and remained abroad until he was sixty years of age, and there is reason to believe that he was the first who printed a book in the French language. On his return to England, about the year 1471, he set up his printing-press in the almonry of Westminster Abbey, and produced the first book ever printed in England, a treatise on chess, called "The Game and Playe of the Chesse."

HERBERT.

I have been much struck with an expression of the bishop who held the see of London at the time Caxton's wonderful art was introduced. He said, "If we do not destroy that dangerous invention, it will destroy us." We may almost regard such a speech as prophetic; for I suppose the art of printing has tended more than anything else to the destruction of popery, by the opportunity it has given for people to think and judge for themselves.

MRS. LESLIE.

Unquestionably, in countries where the press is unrestricted, as in England; but in some parts of the continent its liberty is so circumscribed, and particular publications are so carefully interdicted, that the people are still debarred from the right of private judgment. To give you some idea of the benefit we derive from printing, I need only tell you that it is calculated that a single *written* copy of the Scriptures would (at the rate law-stationers' clerks are paid) cost about 60*l.*, whereas it is now produced for less than half as many pence.

HERBERT.

The art of printing does not appear to have advanced very rapidly in England on its first introduction, as one work only appeared in each of the years 1474, 1475, 1477, and 1478, and none at all in the years 1476 and 1479. What a contrast to the present teeming state of the London press, which is now daily sending out myriads of publications to every country of the globe!

MARION.

In reading an account of the British Museum, the other day, I met with an interesting statement showing the great increase in the demand for literature within the last century. The library of that noble institution was first opened to the public on the 15th of January, 1759; but so little was the privilege then appreciated, that six months afterwards, there were but five readers! In 1844, the number was said to be 70,000!

MRS. LESLIE.

Such a statement is, indeed, worthy of note, and you have introduced it very appropriately; but we must not run away from Westminster just yet, as several places there claim our notice, and the whole neighbourhood is full of interesting associations.

KATE.

The city of Westminster takes its name from its beautiful abbey, which was the minster or monastery west of St. Paul's. The first church was founded in the year 616, by Sebert, king of the East Saxons, and greatly enlarged by Edward the Confessor, who "appropriated to it the tenth part of his entire substance, gold, silver, cattle, and all other possessions." The present abbey was erected by Henry the Third, and his son, Edward the First.

WILLIE.

When papa took me to see Westminster Abbey, he told me that the kings and queens of England were always crowned there.

MRS. LESLIE.

They have been since the time of Edward the Confessor. The coronation of our own beloved queen took place there on the 28th of June, 1838.

WILLIE.

I remember one part of the abbey was called Poet's Corner, but I forget why.

MRS. LESLIE.

From the circumstance of its containing the tombs and monuments of some of our greatest poets, Chaucer, Spenser, Shakespeare, and many others. Most of the sovereigns of England, from Henry the Seventh to George the Second, have been buried in the abbey, as well as many of our most distinguished public men.

KATE.

There was formerly a royal palace at Westminster, was there not, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, my dear, and it was the principal residence of the kings and queens of England from the reign of Edward the Confessor

to that of Elizabeth. Westminster Hall, one of the noblest apartments in Europe, was added to the ancient palace by William Rufus, who had it erected for a banqueting hall. I remember when I first paid a visit to that magnificent hall, which is 239 feet long, and 68 feet broad, being impressed with astonishment at the idea it gave one of the vast entertainments of the Norman, Plantagenet, and Tudor kings; and yet it is said that William Rufus, on his return from Normandy, complained that "it was not half as large as it should have been, and was only a *bed-chamber* in comparison of the building which he intended to make."

HERBERT.

Westminster Hall has been no less distinguished as a law court than as a banqueting hall, and it has been the scene of some extraordinary trials. It was there that the Scottish patriot, William Wallace, was tried and condemned in the reign of Edward the First,—there, in the reign of Charles the First, Wentworth, Earl of Strafford, was condemned to death ostensibly for treason, but really for his attachment to his sovereign,—and there, that same unhappy sovereign was soon after arraigned before his self-appointed judges.

MARION.

Poor Charles! How keenly he must have felt the humiliation of that ignoble trial. The vulgar president, Bradshaw, not contented with sitting in judgment on his sovereign, treated him with insolent brutality, and coarsely refused to hear a word in his defence; and when the royal prisoner was being led from the hall, condemned to suffer death, as "a tyrant, traitor, murderer, and public enemy," the common soldiers smoked their tobacco in his face, and threw their pipes before him in token of contempt.

KATE.

If you remember, there was one among them who pitied his sufferings, and ventured to exclaim, "God bless you, sir!" for which he received a severe stroke on the head from the cane of his commanding officer.

MARION.

Westminster Hall is now used as an entrance to the new Houses of Parliament, which occupy the site of the old palace of Westminster, on the left bank of the Thames, between the river and the abbey. This magnificent pile of architecture is said to be the largest gothic edifice in the world, and occupies an area of nearly eight acres. It is computed that the entire cost of the buildings, when completed, will be little short of two millions of money.

KATE.

The royal palace of Whitehall is often mentioned in history ; I know there is no such palace now, but I suppose it stood somewhere in the neighbourhood of that part of London which is called Whitehall ?

MRS. LESLIE.

It occupied the entire district from Scotland Yard to Parliament Street, and from the Thames to St. James's Park. Nothing now remains of that magnificent palace but the noble banqueting house, which has been converted into a chapel, but still retains its original name. Whitehall was formerly called York Place, from its having been the town residence of the Archbishops of York. It was greatly enlarged by Cardinal Wolsey, who resided there in a style of princely magnificence. On his disgrace and fall from power, York Place, with its splendid furniture, gold and silver plate, &c., was seized upon by the king, who soon made it his town residence, and ordered it thenceforward to be called Whitehall.

KATE.

It was at Whitehall that Henry the Eighth was married to Anne Boleyn ; there also he died ; and most of the succeeding sovereigns, to William the Third, kept their court there ; and it was at Whitehall that poor Charles the First was beheaded.

MRS. LESLIE.

In our limited time for conversation, it would be impossible to mention half of the interesting associations connected with the memory of Whitehall ; but we may let imagination carry us back

for a moment to the different scenes it presented at different periods of its history. We can fancy, but must not dwell upon, the unparalleled magnificence of Wolsey's banquets,—the tilts and tournaments of Henry the Eighth and Elizabeth,—the buffooneries of the Scottish monarch, James the First,—the refined entertainments of Charles the First, during his brief season of prosperity, — the profuse but vulgar hospitalities of Cromwell,—and the unseemly revelries of the immoral court of Charles the Second.

MARION.

I think the execution of Charles the First is the most interesting, and, I am sure, it is the most mournful event associated with Whitehall. After having passed the night previous to his execution at St. James's Palace, the unhappy king was conducted through the park, between a regiment of soldiers, to Whitehall, where a scaffold was being raised in front of the banqueting house. The preparations not being quite completed, he was led to his former bed-chamber, where he spent a considerable time in devotion. He was attended to the scaffold by his faithful friends, Herbert, and Bishop Juxon, and after expressing his confidence in God, and his belief that he was about to exchange a corruptible for an incorruptible crown, he meekly laid his head upon the block, when, with one blow from the executioner, it was severed from his body.

KATE.

I wonder when that beautiful statue of Charles the First on horseback was put up at Charing Cross? Of course not till after the Restoration.

MRS. LESLIE.

It was cast in 1633, before the king had lost the affections of his people; but not being erected before the commencement of the civil wars, it fell into the hands of the parliament, who sold it to a brazier, named John Revet, with strict orders to destroy it; but, instead of doing so, he concealed it underground until the Restoration, when he presented it to Charles the Second, and it was mounted upon the pedestal where it now stands.

HERBERT.

Well done, worthy royalist Revet! It is quite cheering to hear of such unselfish loyalty!

MRS. LESLIE.

Your admiration of the brazier's disinterestedness will be somewhat qualified when I tell you that he made a very good thing of his bargain after all, as he got a quantity of pieces of broken metal, which he sold at good prices, pretending they were fragments of the statue; the royalists eagerly buying them as memorials of their fallen sovereign, and the parliamentarians as emblems of their own power.

KATE.

The Tower of London formerly contained a royal palace, did it not, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, and for nearly 500 years was the occasional residence of our sovereigns, and the place from whence they proceeded with great state through the city to Westminster, on the morning of their coronation.

KATE.

I always thought Julius Cæsar commenced building the Tower of London, but of course that must be a mistake, if he did not even visit the city.

MRS. LESLIE.

Tradition has ascribed its foundation to him, but it is wholly unsupported by historical evidence. It is probable that a Roman fortress was erected by one of the later emperors on the site of the present fortress, but there is no authority whatever for the belief of any part of the existing structure having been built before the time of William the Conqueror. The keep, or white-tower, is unquestionably the most ancient part of the building, and there is direct evidence to prove that that was built by Gundulph, Bishop of Rochester, about the year 1078.

HERBERT.

What a multitude of tragical associations rush into the mind at the mention of the Tower of London! One thinks directly of the

two young princes who were smothered there, by order of their uncle, Richard, Duke of Gloucester; of Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard, beheaded by the tyrant Henry the Eighth; of sweet Lady Jane Grey, and her youthful husband, who were sacrificed to the ambition of the aspiring Duke of Northumberland; of Sir Walter Raleigh, and many others. No less than eleven of the principal towers attached to the fortress have been used as "prison lodgings," and it is said that as many as 1000 prisoners have been confined there at one time.

WILLIE.

I think it is very wise of our kings and queens to have given up living in such a gloomy place. If I were to live there, I should always be thinking of some of the dreadful deeds that have been committed.

MARION.

The principal attractions of the Tower, apart from the interest excited by the memory of the past, are the armouries, and the jewel tower; the latter containing the regalia, or crown jewels, among which is the new state crown made for the coronation of Queen Victoria.

KATE.

I believe the only royal palaces of London, now, are Buckingham Palace and St. James's?

MRS. LESLIE.

Kensington Palace is also included in the list of royal palaces, though it has ceased to be the abode of our sovereigns. It is, however, regarded with peculiar interest, from its having been the birth-place of our beloved queen, and the place where she held her first council on the 20th of June, 1837. St. James's Palace is now used exclusively for state purposes; and Buckingham Palace is the only town residence of our sovereign and her court.

KATE.

Just look, mamma, at Herbert's long list of memoranda of places that have not been noticed, and yet it is almost time for him to go to Dr. Winstanley. What are we to do?

MRS. LESLIE.

It is very evident that we cannot in the course of a single morning enter upon the history of every celebrated place in London, which, by the books of reference before us, we see is sufficient to fill volumes. Having named the most prominent buildings of the great metropolis, I think the remaining portion of the time we have to devote to it cannot be better occupied than in contrasting the manners and customs of the inhabitants with the records of the past. We may, however, observe that London has eight magnificent bridges over the Thames, namely, London, Southwark, Blackfriars, Waterloo, Hungerford, Westminster, Vauxhall, and Chelsea,—that the health and recreation of her vast population are conduced by six extensive parks; her spiritual wants provided for by about 150 churches and innumerable chapels; her commercial greatness manifested by the possession of the “greatest monetary establishment in the world,” the Bank of England; by her national Post Office, extensive docks, busy exchanges, halls of the city, and other companies, and her numerous railway termini; her civic dignity is displayed by her noble Mansion House and Guildhall; and in relation to literature and the fine arts, London can boast of her colleges, libraries, halls, museums, and galleries.

HERBERT.

The National Gallery is not much of a place to boast of, at any rate, mamma!

MRS. LESLIE.

I agree with you, as far as the architecture of the building is concerned; but, nevertheless, it contains some fine paintings by the ancient masters, and well repays the trouble of a visit.

WILLIE.

I hope, mamma, you mean to tell us something about the Plague and the Fire of London, which happened in the reign of Charles the Second.

MRS. LESLIE.

We have but little time, my dear, to touch upon those terrible events. The Great Pestilence, or Plague, as it was called, com-

menced in December, 1664, the infection having been conveyed in some goods from Holland, where the disease was then raging. Before the end of the following year, upwards of 68,000 people died in London alone; and during the following year, the distemper spread over the greater part of England. Scarcely had the Plague ceased to rage in the metropolis, when it was followed by the Great Fire of London, which broke out on the 2nd of September, 1666, and in four days destroyed eighty-nine churches, four of the city gates, the Guildhall, and many other public buildings, besides 13,200 dwelling-houses.

KATE.

How strange it was for two such terrible events to happen so close together!

MRS. LESLIE.

A reflecting and pious mind can scarcely fail to regard such fearful calamities, occurring at such a time, as manifestations of the Divine displeasure against the iniquities that so generally prevailed. The example of the profligate king and his corrupt court extended its influence over all classes of the people, so that the reign of Charles the Second stands out prominently as the most dissolute period of English history. Is it, then, to be wondered at, that God should have visited the city for its iniquities? Surely, in reference to such dreadful scourges, we may inquire with the prophet Amos, "Is there evil in a city, and the Lord hath not done it?"

KATE.

I should think between the ravages of the Plague and the Fire, London must have been almost depopulated.

MRS. LESLIE.

Notwithstanding the immense destruction of property, the value of which was estimated at little less than ten millions of money, but six or seven persons perished in the conflagration. The distress of the survivors, however, as we may imagine, was very great, for in most instances they had lost everything belonging to them in the world, and were absolutely without the means of sustenance or shelter.

WILLIE.

What could they do, mamma ?

MRS. LESLIE.

They removed in large numbers to the fields, by which London was then surrounded, and for a time dwelt in tents, or such miserable huts as they were able to erect. The whole calamity, however, was said to have been bravely borne, and the city was entirely rebuilt in little more than four years after its destruction. The monument on Fish Street Hill was erected to commemorate this terrible event.

HERBERT.

The fire proved eventually one of the greatest blessings that could have been conferred on London, as it cleared it of all the ill-ventilated projecting wooden houses, which for ages had harboured the plague and other infectious disorders to a fearful extent; and the new city was erected, not only with a view to an improved exterior, but with some regard, at least, to sanitary measures and precautions.

MARION.

What a contrast the metropolis must have presented to its present state, when it was neither paved nor lighted! Pavement was altogether unknown in London until the eleventh century, and so late as the reign of Henry the Eighth, many of the streets "were so full of pits and sloughs," as to be very dangerous to passengers.

MRS. LESLIE.

At a much later period the paving of the metropolis presented a most irregular and incomplete appearance, each inhabitant paving before his own door with such materials as he chose to employ. The Westminster Paving Act, passed in 1762, was the first efficient public measure for the improvement of the foot-paths, which were soon after made wider and more uniform.

HERBERT.

We have talked a good deal lately about fenny marshy land, but I little thought to meet with any memorial of such a soil in

the city of London. It appears, however, that Finsbury (properly Fensbury) and Moorfields derived their names from the nature of the land on which they were built. St. James's Park was also originally a swamp, and a great part of the palace at Whitehall was in Charles the Second's time often under water.

MARION.

A few centuries back, it appears, the streets of London were lighted by lanterns, suspended from wisps of rope or hay; these were superseded by oil lamps, but I suppose *they* scarcely did more than make darkness visible, for, as late as 1807, it was usual for carriages and foot passengers to employ men or boys to go before them and carry torches. Gas was introduced that year; but the idea of lighting London by smoke was so much ridiculed, that it was not generally adopted until 1814, nor exclusively until 1842. Grosvenor Square was the last place in London to discard the glimmering oil lamps in favour of brilliant gas.

HERBERT.

Your account conveys a curious idea of London in olden time, but an extract I will read you from the Earl of Strafford's correspondence in 1634, exhibits a still more remarkable point of contrast between the past and present. Garrard, in writing to the earl, conveys the following intelligence: — "One Captain Bailey hath erected some four hackney coaches, put his men in livery, and appointed them to stand at the May-pole in the Strand, giving them instructions at what rates to carry men into the several parts of the town, where all the day they may be had." Just imagine, four hackney coaches and an occasional sedan, the only public vehicles traversing the streets of the great metropolis! Now, the number of public conveyances in the metropolis is counted by thousands.

KATE.

I suppose the "May-pole" was the sign of some inn in the Strand; for, however singular the customs of the people were in ancient times, I should think there never was a real May-pole, not much more than two centuries ago, in that crowded thoroughfare.

MRS. LESLIE.

Indeed there was, my dear, a real May-pole, decorated on holidays with flags and garlands, around which, on May-day, youths and maidens danced to the music of a pipe and tabor, as they would upon a village green. These rural festivities were checked by the puritanic spirit that prevailed in the time of the Commonwealth, but were resumed after the Restoration with greater avidity than ever, and "May-poles were erected at every cross-way." The May-pole in the Strand was not removed until 1718, when it was taken down to make way for St. Mary's Church, which now stands upon the spot.

MARION.

I find that the fashionable locality called May-Fair carries in its name the record of ancient customs. An annual fair on the 1st of May was formerly held there, and was not only frequented by idle and disorderly persons belonging to the lower classes, but was a favourite resort of vast numbers of the nobility and gentry.

HERBERT.

Pall Mall, too, is significant of the amusements of our ancestors, the name being derived from a French game called *paile-maile*, which was introduced into England in the reign of Charles the First. The game consisted in striking a ball with a mallet through a high arch of iron, and the one who did it with the fewest number of blows was deemed the conqueror.

WILLIE.

Was the Strand always full of shops like it is now, mamma, or had it ever any private houses?

MRS. LESLIE.

The south side, or that nearest to the Thames, was formerly occupied by bishops' houses, which were called inns or hostels, and by some few noblemen's mansions. At the period of the Reformation, no less than nine bishops had houses on that side of the Strand.

KATE.

What could have been the reason for so many bishops living there?

MRS. LESLIE.

At that period it was scarcely considered safe for noblemen to live by the water side, but the bishops, by reason of their sacred calling, thought themselves quite free from danger or molestation.

MARION.

I have been thinking that we never hear London spoken of as a manufacturing town, and yet there is an extensive manufacture of silk at Spitalfields.

MRS. LESLIE.

There are so many different aspects in which London may be viewed, that we cannot ascribe her importance to any one particular movement of the vast machinery by which her two millions of inhabitants are supported. Manufacture is but one of the many sources of her wealth and prosperity, and the silk trade of Spitalfields, extensive as it is, conveys a very inadequate idea of even the manufacturing industry of this vast metropolis. Breweries, distilleries, sugar-refineries, potteries, soap manufactories, tanneries, and chemical and glass works, are among the almost endless variety of establishments engaged in manufacture.

HERBERT.

The silk trade was introduced to Spitalfields by some French emigrants, who were driven from their country by the revocation of the edict of Nantes in 1685. I was rather amused in reading an account of those persecuted Huguenots, to find that when they came to England they translated their names into English; thus, one of the name of Le-Maitres would call himself Masters, a Monsieur Le-Roi would be plain Mr. King, and if we were to go now into that locality and meet with a Mr. Young, we might pretty safely conclude that his ancestors came from France, and were called Les-Jeunes.

MARION.

The Spitalfields weavers are generally very poor, are they not, mamma?

K K

MRS. LESLIE.

They are ; and I grieve to say that their poverty in a general measure arises from the inadequate remuneration they receive for their labour. Improvidence and intemperance, in many instances, aggravate the evil, but yet, with the utmost frugality, it is scarcely possible to subsist upon the miserable pittance they receive. There is but one other point we must touch upon in London, and that is the Metropolitan Police. The superiority of this efficient force over the old Bow Street patrol, and city watchmen, is incalculable as a protection to person and property; and reflects the highest honour on the wisdom of the late Sir Robert Peel, by whom the Police Act was introduced, and the former defective system abolished.

HERBERT.

Surely you forget, mamma, how often Punch is abusing policemen for being everywhere but on their "beat!"

MRS. LESLIE.

There may be individual instances of dereliction from duty, as there are in every large establishment, but, notwithstanding the strictures of Mr. Punch, I cannot but consider the Metropolitan Police Force a most valuable and efficient body, protecting as it does, without the aid of military, nearly two millions and a half of people, and ten millions of rateable property, in the very midst of six thousand professional thieves.

MARION.

Six thousand professional thieves, mamma ! Such a statement is enough to do away with all our boasting of having the finest city in the world.

MRS. LESLIE.

It is indeed calculated to check the risings of national vanity, and to bring us in humble supplication to Him in whose hands are the hearts of all men, praying that He would be pleased to convince these wretched outcasts of the evil of their ways, and to turn them from "darkness unto light," and from "the kingdom of Satan unto God."

WILLIE.

Oh, mamma! I shall feel more interested than ever in hearing about ragged schools, and ragged churches, when I think about those six thousand people who get their living entirely by stealing.

MRS. LESLIE.

I hope so, indeed, my love; and that we shall all feel constrained to do what we can to aid in any benevolent undertaking, remembering that it is God alone who maketh us to differ from the greatest criminal.

MARION.

There are but four more market towns in Middlesex, Barnet, Brentford, Staines, and Uxbridge; and, fortunately, they do not demand especial notice. There are also several populous villages, whose principal importance is derived from their proximity to the metropolis. Hampstead, Hornsey, and Highgate are celebrated for their salubrity, and Hampton Court for its palace, built by Cardinal Wolsey.

HERBERT.

I have just two minutes to mention one of the monuments of our national gratitude—Chelsea Hospital, the comfortable retreat of our veteran soldiers. In architectural beauty, it is far inferior to that of Greenwich, but it is nevertheless a noble pile and worthy of being a home for the brave defenders of the British nation. It was erected by Charles the Second, who himself laid the first stone on the 12th of May, 1682.

KATE.

Come, that looks as if there was some good in Charles after all!

MRS. LESLIE.

Few persons are entirely bad, but there is some reason to question the pure benevolence of Charles's motives. We must not, however, enter on the subject now, for you see, Herbert is in a hurry to be off, and I have exceeded the time I had to spare. Kent is the next county for investigation.

CONVERSATION XXXI.

KENT.

SUBJECTS:— Situation. — Boundaries. — Size. — Scene of early Conflict. — Fertility of County. — For what celebrated. — Principal Rivers. — Canterbury, the Ecclesiastical Capital of England. — Pre-eminence of Archbishop of Canterbury. — Canterbury a Roman Town. — Mission of Augustine. — Reception by Ethelbert and his Queen Bertha. — Conversion of Ethelbert. — Spread of Christianity. — Canterbury Cathedral. — Shrine of Thomas à Becket. — Character and Mode of Life. — Circumstances of his Death. — His Canonisation. — Contributions made at his Shrine. — Antiquity of Rochester Cathedral. — Castle. — Great Naval Station of Chatham. — Greenwich. — Royal Hospital. — Ancient Palace. — Residence of Queen Elizabeth. — Painted Hall. — Flamstead House. — Blackheath. — Scene of various Insurgent Factions. — Woolwich. — Dockyard. — Great Harry. — Leviathan. — Royal Arsenal. — Rotunda. — Deptford. — Royal Dockyard. — Peter the Great. — Saye's Court. — Victualling Office. — Dover. — Ancient Castle. — Roman Fortifications. — Norman Towers. — Historical Recollections. — Achievements of Engineering Skill. — Present Condition of Town. — Deal. — Landing-place of invading Romans. — Downa. — Town of Deal. — Goodwin Sands. — Isle of Thanet. — Celebrated watering Places. — Richborough Castle. — Hengist and Horsa. — Village of Reculver. — Isle of Sheppey. — Gravesend. — Sydenham Crystal Palace. — Maidstone, Faversham, and other Towns.

“I SUPPOSE there are few parts of our island which have been the scene of so many interesting events, as the county which is to engage our attention this morning,” observed Mrs. Leslie, as her children were arranging their books and memoranda, previously to commencing their conversation on Kent. “I see,” she continued, “you have each a long list of notes before you, therefore we had better at once ascertain the boundaries and size of the county.”

MARION.

Kent is a maritime county, in the south-eastern corner of England, and is bounded on the north by the river Thames; on the east, by the German Ocean and the Straits of Dover; on the south, by the English Channel, and the county of Sussex; and on the west, by Surrey. The average length of the county from east to west, is about sixty-six miles; and its breadth about twenty-six miles.

HERBERT.

This county has pre-eminent claims to our notice, from the fact of its having been the scene of the earliest contests between the ancient Britons and the Romans, and the part of our island which was first enlightened by civilisation. In Cæsar's account of his expedition against Britain, he calls this district Cantium, a name derived from a British word, supposed to signify a corner or projection. In the Roman division of the country, Cantium formed part of the province of Britannia Prima, and during the Saxon heptarchy, comprised the kingdom of Kent.

MRS. LESLIE.

There are some very interesting remains of Roman architecture and fortification along the coast, which we shall have occasion to notice presently. Perhaps, Katie, you can tell us something of the general features and productions of the county?

KATE.

Kent is a beautifully wooded and fertile district, having many fine clusters of gently-rising hills, enriched with coppice and woodlands. The Weald of Kent, and Romney Marsh, two extensive plains in the southern part of the county, are celebrated for the peculiar luxuriance of their vegetation. The cultivation of hops is carried on to a great extent; and the county is also celebrated for cherries and apples.

WILLIE.

I remember, when we were in Kent, being so surprised to see such a number of orchards and fruit gardens, and you told me, mamma, that Kent was often called "the garden of England."

MRS. LESLIE.

Did I, Willie? Well, it is certainly a very appropriate appellation. But we must proceed. I dare say you can name the chief rivers of this county.

WILLIE.

The Thames, the Medway, the Swale, and the Stour.

MARION.

The chief city of Kent is Canterbury, which is also the ecclesiastical capital of England.

KATE.

I suppose it is so called because it is the see of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes. The Archbishop of Canterbury is the highest prelate in the church of England. There are but two archbishops, you know, those of Canterbury and York; the Archbishop of York is styled Primate of England, while the Archbishop of Canterbury has the higher dignity of Primate of *all* England. He is considered the first peer of the realm, and takes precedence of all dukes not of royal blood. He crowns the sovereign, and performs the most important rites of the church for the members of the royal household.

HERBERT.

There appears to be no doubt that the place where Canterbury now stands, was occupied by a British town, and that subsequently one was built by the Romans, which they called Durovernum. During the Saxon heptarchy, Canterbury was the capital of the kingdom of Kent, and the residence of Ethelbert, the first Christian king, who was converted by the preaching of Augustine.

KATE.

I believe Augustine was invited to Canterbury by Ethelbert, upon the advice of his good queen, Bertha.

MRS. LESLIE.

You are right. Bertha, daughter of Charibert, king of Paris, was a Christian, and on her marriage with Ethelbert, it was

agreed that she should be allowed to practise her own religion in this country as freely as she had done in France. She therefore brought over with her some of her own ecclesiastics, and used to perform her devotions in a little church which had been left by the Romans, who, without doubt, had introduced Christianity two or three centuries before that time. When Augustine and his forty companions were sent to England by Pope Gregory in the year 597, they landed on the Isle of Thanet in this county, and immediately sent a messenger to Ethelbert, to inform him of the object of their mission.

WILLIE.

How glad the queen must have been to hear of their arrival! I dare say she was very uncomfortable in the midst of pagan Saxons.

MRS. LESLIE.

No doubt she was; indeed, it is supposed she had something to do with the missionaries being sent from Rome; but whether she had or not, she accompanied Ethelbert to the Isle of Thanet, to hear what they had to propose.

KATE.

I forget whether Ethelbert immediately embraced Christianity.

MRS. LESLIE.

After listening to a long harangue from Augustine, the king replied: "Your proposals are noble, and your promises inviting; yet I cannot resolve upon quitting the religion of my forefathers for one that appears supported only by the testimony of persons who are entire strangers to me. Since, however, as I perceive you have undertaken so long a journey on purpose to impart to us those things which you deem most important and valuable, you shall not be sent away without some satisfaction. I will take care that you shall be treated with civility, and supplied with all things necessary and convenient, and if any of my people, convinced by your arguments, desire to embrace your faith, I will not oppose it." The king then invited the missionaries to Canterbury, gave them permission to teach in public, and allowed them to use the queen's little church for that purpose. Ethelbert was ultimately con-

verted, and his subjects, almost without exception, embraced Christianity. Christian churches were reared upon the ruins of pagan temples, a cathedral was erected, and Augustine was created by the Pope Archbishop of Canterbury.

WILLIE.

Of course, that was not the cathedral that is standing now, mamma ?

MRS. LESLIE.

No, Willie. The church built by St. Augustine had been almost demolished by repeated attacks of the Danes ; and was rebuilt in 1070, by Lanfranc, Archbishop of Canterbury, but that structure was destroyed by fire, in less than a century after its erection. The present beautiful cathedral was commenced towards the close of the twelfth century, but continued to receive additions and alterations up to the time of the Reformation. The canonisation of Thomas à Becket conduced so greatly to the ecclesiastical importance of this city, by the influx of pilgrims, who came from all parts of Europe to bring oblations to his shrine, that Canterbury was at one time called "the little Rome of England."

HERBERT.

Don't you remember, Marion, when we went over the cathedral, the verger pointed out a part of the pavement which was worn away, he said, by the multitudes of worshippers who crowded there for upwards of three centuries ?

MARION.

Yes, I remember it very well ; but I could never understand what Becket did when living, to merit so much veneration after his death. In the former part of his career, he was an ambitious, extravagant, and ostentatious man, and in the latter part, a very dirty and disagreeable one.

WILLIE.

I wish, mamma, you would tell us something about Becket's mode of life, as you did about Cardinal Wolsey's.

MRS. LESLIE.

In many points, there was a great similarity in the lives and

characters of those two individuals. They were both of humble origin,—of engaging appearance and address ; alike ambitious and ostentatious, both rose to the highest offices of church and state, and surpassed the highest nobles in the land in the splendour of their palaces, and the magnificence of their entertainments. At one period of life, each possessed the highest confidence and esteem of his sovereign, and afterwards alike incurred that sovereign's displeasure. But I suppose you will not be satisfied unless I enter a little into particulars.

WILLIE.

Pray do, mamma ; it is so very interesting to hear all about the manner in which great people lived.

MRS. LESLIE.

Some of the things I shall have to tell you would appear very odd at the present day. At the period when Becket was in the highest favour with his sovereign, Henry the Second, whom he rivalled in the magnificence of his entertainments, his biographer, after speaking of his splendid hangings, gold and silver vessels, and the luxury of his table, gives a further instance of his extravagance by stating that "the apartments of the chancellor were every day in winter covered with clean hay or straw, and in summer with green rushes or boughs, lest the gentlemen who came to visit him, and who could not, by reason of the great number of the guests, find room to sit at table, should soil their clothes by sitting on a dirty floor."

KATE.

I think the Flemings did not set up the woollen manufacture in England before it was wanted. There appears to be such an inconsistency in drinking out of gold and silver, and having the floor covered like a stable ! But pray go on, mamma.

MRS. LESLIE.

Becket's style of travelling was even more ostentatious than his household appointments. Everywhere he went he was attended by a vast retinue of barons, knights, esquires, priests, huntsmen, falconers, and a host of serving men splendidly attired. His

baggage was conveyed in eight large waggons, drawn by five horses each. One waggon contained the furniture of his chapel, another that of his bedchamber, a third conveyed his plate and wardrobe, a fourth his ale and wine, while the remainder were appropriated to his kitchen utensils and the baggage of his servants.

HERBERT.

What a motley cavalcade! Of course the kitchen apparatus was under the care of the black-guard.

KATE.

The black-guard, Herbert! What can you mean?

HERBERT.

Just what I say, Katie. I have lately been reading Trench on the "Study of Words," and I find, that in the times of which we are speaking, when it was usual for a person of distinction to carry his furniture with him from one of his castles to another, the care of the kitchen utensils fell to the lot of the most menial of his servants, who, from the black or dirty nature of the goods conveyed by them, were called the black-guard. There was then nothing disreputable in the appellation, it simply denoted the particular department of those to whom it was applied. In course of time the word became associated with character, and any one guilty of a dishonourable, or as it was vulgarly expressed, a dirty action, was called a blackguard. But I am sorry I have interrupted you, mamma.

MRS. LESLIE.

I was merely going to add, in reference to Becket's style of travelling, that in a journey he made through some parts of France, the people exclaimed, "What manner of man must the king of England be, when his chancellor can travel with so much state?"

WILLIE.

But you know, mamma, you have to tell us about the change in Becket, during the latter part of his life.

MRS. LESLIE.

As soon as Becket was made Archbishop of Canterbury, he gave

up his former gay and luxurious style of living, and became all at once the most austere and solemn monk. Nothing could exceed the severity of his self-inflicted penances; he wore rough sack-cloth next his skin, and changed it so seldom that it was full of dirt and vermin. His usual diet was bread, and his drink water in which fennel had been boiled, on purpose to make it unpleasant to the taste. He daily washed the feet of thirteen beggars, and mangled his back by frequent scourgings.

MARION.

I suppose it was all this self-mortification that gained him the name and reputation of a saint.

MRS. LESLIE.

In that ignorant and superstitious age, his assumed sanctity made him while living an object of veneration to the people; and the manner and circumstances of his death invested him with the glory of martyrdom. He was, moreover, an Englishman, and the first of Saxon blood who had attained to any high position in church or state since the Norman conquest. All these circumstances combined to make his shrine more frequented than that of any other in England. You will have some idea of the estimation in which St. Thomas à Becket was held by his ignorant and superstitious votaries, when I tell you the value of the contributions made on two successive years to *his* shrine, the *Virgin Mary's*, and *Christ's*. The offerings amounted to—

First year:	£	s.	d.	Second year:	£	s.	d.
Christ's altar . . .	3	2	6	Christ's altar . . .	0	0	0
Virgin Mary's . . .	63	5	6	Virgin Mary's . . .	4	1	8
Becket's . . .	832	12	9	Becket's . . .	954	6	3

KATE.

How very shocking to set up Becket above the Saviour.

WILLIE.

I should like to know the circumstances of Thomas à Becket's death, mamma.

MRS. LESLIE.

He had incurred the displeasure of the king by repeated acts of

arrogance and insolence in matters connected with church authority, and at length, in a moment of great provocation, Henry exclaimed, "Is there not one of the knights whom I maintain that will rid me of this turbulent priest?" This inconsiderate speech was immediately taken advantage of by four of the king's knights, who immediately proceeded to Canterbury, and after severely upbraiding Becket for his conduct, followed him to the cathedral, where he went to assist at vespers, and assassinated him before the altar of St. Benedict.

WILLIE.

What a dreadful story. But what did Henry think when he heard of the murder?

MRS. LESLIE.

He was very much shocked and frightened at the consequences of his rash expression, and by way of atonement ordered a magnificent tomb in memory of Becket to be erected, to which he walked barefooted, allowing himself to be scourged by monks as he knelt before the shrine.

MARION.

With the exception of the civil wars of Charles the First, Canterbury does not appear to have been the scene of any particular historical event, apart from those connected with its ecclesiastical history.

MRS. LESLIE.

The city lost its secular pre-eminence when the kingdoms of the heptarchy were united under Egbert at the commencement of the ninth century, but notwithstanding the changes which have taken place during the last 1200 years, it is still, as in the days of Augustine, the ecclesiastical capital of England. As you are all aware, it is a fine old city, containing many interesting relics of antiquity. Its population is about 19,000.

MARION.

Of course the city of Rochester is the next place that claims our notice.

MRS. LESLIE.

There are so many important towns in this county, that I think,

for the sake of brevity, we must mention some of them collectively. The ancient city of Rochester, the pretty town of Strood, and the great naval station of Chatham are so closely connected, that they are often spoken of together, as "the three towns." Their united population amounts to more than 40,000. The valley of the Medway, in which these towns are situated, is one of the most fertile districts of England, and the oyster fishery which is carried on extensively in the creeks and inlets of the river, is a source of great profit to the inhabitants.

HERBERT.

The antiquity of Rochester may be traced back to the Romans. The place was called by them Durobrovis, and by the Saxons Hroffe-ceastre, from which the modern Rochester is derived. The first Christian church in this city was built by Ethelbert shortly after his conversion, and Justus, one of the companions of Augustine, was appointed by that prelate bishop of the diocese. The present beautiful but time-worn cathedral was erected in the eleventh century. The structure was greatly defaced at the Reformation, and suffered still greater desecration during the civil wars.

MARION.

What a noble pile of architecture Rochester Castle must have been during the time of the Normans! Though it is now only a roofless ruin, one cannot help being struck with its appearance of magnitude and strength. The amazing thickness of the walls, and the massive Norman pillars, convey such an idea of ancient grandeur!

KATE.

I am sure it must have been a very uncomfortable place to live in though, with all the best rooms at the top of the castle; the windows stuck up so high, and nothing but holes above the fire places to let the smoke escape. For my part, I would much rather live in my uncle's pretty villa on the hill at Higham, than in that great frowning castle that we used to look at in the distance, notwithstanding all its ancient grandeur.

MRS. LESLIE.

I quite agree with you, my dear, if comfort and enjoyment were the only considerations; but, you know, the elegant French windows opening on the lawn which you admired so much in your uncle's country residence, would have afforded no security against the oppressed and indignant Saxons. A Norman nobleman was only safe when shut up in his gloomy castle, the state apartments of which were always near the top, so as to be out of reach of molestation from the enemy.

HERBERT.

The importance of Chatham arises almost entirely from its dockyard and arsenal, which give employment to vast numbers of its inhabitants. The town was fortified in the reign of George the Second, and a considerable garrison is maintained there.

MARION.

As you wish us, mamma, to notice some of the towns of this county together, I suppose we cannot do better than to unite those of Greenwich, Woolwich and Deptford, as they are all situated in a line, on the south bank of the Thames, and form one borough. The population of these towns collectively is upwards of 166,000.

MRS. LESLIE.

I suppose there is no place in our country more calculated to excite a feeling of honest pride in the bosom of an Englishman, than the Royal Hospital of Greenwich. The noble home there provided for our wounded and worn-out sailors, is undoubtedly one of our most glorious national institutions, evincing as it does a grateful care of those brave veterans who have lost their limbs and risked their lives in upholding the dignity of the British flag.

WILLIE.

Greenwich Hospital was once a king's palace, was it not, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, my dear. The queens Mary and Elizabeth were born at Greenwich, in an old palace which was pulled down by Charles the Second, when the present magnificent structure was commenced.

MARION.

Greenwich Palace appears to have been the residence of several of our sovereigns, and a favourite retreat of queen Elizabeth, who was often entertained in the park with tilts and tournaments, and a variety of the festive amusements of that day, which she and her ladies witnessed from a gallery erected for their accommodation over the gate. "The queen," says an old historian, "showed herself very merry," while the people testified their loyalty by shouts of enthusiasm.

HERBERT.

I find Greenwich Palace was converted into an asylum for decayed seamen in the reign of William the Third. How often I have enjoyed hearing one of the old pensioners "spin a yarn" relative to his naval exploits, and as it were fight the battles of his country over again; or, as Goldsmith would say,

"Talk o'er his wounds, and deeds of glory done,
Shoulder his crutch, and show how fields were won."

WILLIE.

The painted hall was the part of Greenwich Hospital that I liked best, mamma.

MRS. LESLIE.

I dare say it was. That splendid naval gallery has generally a great attraction for children.

MARION.

And I think, for "children of a larger growth" too, mamma; for I know I thought you and papa would never leave off looking at the painting which represented Nelson expiring on board his vessel in the hour of victory.

MRS. LESLIE.

I know we much admired the life-like picture you mention, as well as many others; but we were still more highly gratified by a visit to that noble memento of the illustrious hero, the Royal Naval Asylum, which was founded on the second anniversary of the battle of Trafalgar, for the children of men who have fallen, or been disabled in the service of their country.

HERBERT.

Flamstead House or the Royal Observatory, is one of the most interesting institutions of Greenwich. It stands on the highest spot in the park, and contains some of the finest astronomical instruments in the world. The time of its erection, and the circumstances attending it, were referred to in our conversation on Derbyshire, when we gave a short sketch of the life of John Flamstead, the first resident astronomer of Greenwich.

KATE.

I suppose there are no manufactures carried on at Greenwich, for I never heard of any.

MRS. LESLIE.

None of importance; the town derives its support from its local trade and from the attractions it possesses for pleasure-seeking Londoners. The noble Thames, splendid hospital, and beautiful park, combine to make it one of the most frequented places of resort in the environs of the metropolis.

MARION.

We have only, now, you know, mamma, to take an imaginary drive over Blackheath, and we shall soon arrive at Woolwich, the great naval and military depôt of England.

MRS. LESLIE.

Perhaps it may be interesting as we proceed with our ideal drive, to picture to ourselves the various insurgent factions which formerly encamped on this delightful plain. It was at Blackheath, in the reign of Richard the Second, that Wat Tyler and Jack Straw headed a mob of 100,000 lawless men, who proceeded to London, pillaged the city, and murdered vast numbers of the inhabitants. Blackheath was also the place of rendezvous of John Cade and his band of 20,000 Kentish men, who rose in rebellion in the reign of Henry the Sixth; and it was here that the Cornish insurgents pitched their tents in the cause of Perkin Warbeck.

MARION.

The prosperity of Woolwich appears entirely to have arisen from its naval and military establishments. The dockyard, which

is the oldest in England, was constructed in the reign of Henry the Eighth, and greatly improved during that of Elizabeth. The celebrated vessel familiarly known as the "Great Harry," was built in Woolwich dockyard in 1515, and from its great size and splendid decorations, was considered one of the wonders of the age.

HERBERT.

I should like the good people of the sixteenth century to see our Leviathan ! Its sails, to be sure, are not made of cloth of gold, which was the costly material employed to waft their matchless vessel ; but in point of size, it could easily swallow up a dozen such Lilliputian ships as the renowned Henri Grâce-à-Dieu ! Why, the tonnage of the one was but 1000 tons, while that of the other is rated at 22,500 tons.

MRS. LESLIE.

The art of naval architecture has indeed made gigantic strides since the reign of Henry the Eighth ; and if the colossal Eastern steam-ship should answer the expectations of her enterprising projectors, there is no knowing to what it may attain.

KATE.

It was in the royal arsenal at Woolwich that we saw such immense quantities of cannon-balls and bomb-shells.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, and many other engines of destruction used in the fearful art of war. The extensive storehouses of that vast establishment are filled with all kinds of deadly weapons, and though we cannot but admire the skill displayed in their contrivance, we must lament the sad necessity that calls for their manufacture.

MARION.

I was surprised to find that Woolwich arsenal was not established until the reign of George the First. A foundry for cannon previously existed in Moorfields, but in consequence of an explosion, attended with fatal consequences, it was deemed desirable to remove it to a distance from the metropolis, and "The Warren" at Woolwich was the spot selected as most eligible for the new erection.

To this foundry the royal arsenal owes its existence and present importance. The barracks for the Royal Artillery, the military college, and the Rotunda, or military museum, are the most beautiful buildings in Woolwich.

HERBERT.

In an account I met with of the Rotunda, it is stated that that elegant tent-like building was originally erected in Carlton Gardens by George the Fourth, when Prince of Wales, for the reception of the allied sovereigns, on the occasion of their visit to England during the temporary peace of 1814; and was afterwards presented to the garrison at Woolwich, to be used as a military museum. It contains many interesting models of forts, cities, and dockyards, as well as the arms and costumes of different nations, their weapons of warfare, armour, and other apparatus for defence.

KATE.

Although Henry the Eighth was such a tyrant, he appears to have done some good in the country, for it was he who established the royal dockyard at Deptford.

MRS. LESLIE.

Both he and his father, Henry the Seventh, directed their attention to the importance of a superior method of ship-building, to effect which, Henry the Eighth established the dockyards of Deptford and Woolwich; but it was not till the reign of Elizabeth that any great improvement was made in the naval architecture of England.

KATE.

And yet in the reign of William the Third, the English were so renowned for their skill in ship-building, that Peter the Great came from Russia, and for three months resided at Deptford, in a house adjoining the dockyard, on purpose to attain proficiency in that art.

HERBERT.

I never hear of Peter the Great residing at Deptford, without thinking of a description I once read of poor Mr. Evelyn's model garden, with its formal flower-borders and primly-clipped hedges.

WILLIE.

Who was Mr. Evelyn, mamma ?

MRS. LESLIE.

The owner of Saye's Court, the mansion in which the Czar and his suite resided during their stay at Deptford in 1698, and upon the gardens of which its owner had expended a vast amount of time and money. The walks and flower borders were laid out with the utmost regard to uniformity and precision, and although at the present day their style would be thought very formal, and perhaps ugly, it was then considered a perfect specimen of elegance and taste. The business-like Czar, however, seems quite to have overlooked the attractions of the place, and in his zeal to learn ship-building, reduced it to a scene of ruin and desolation.

WILLIE.

I wonder whether Peter the Great worked himself, as Alfred the Great did ?

MRS. LESLIE.

In a visit which the Czar had previously made to Saardam, in Holland, whither he went in disguise, there is no doubt he worked as a common shipwright ; but I believe there is but little evidence to show that he did so at Deptford ; he, however, took the greatest interest in all that he saw relating to the art, and had a doorway made between his residence and the dockyard, in order to afford the means of constant communication.

WILLIE.

I suppose Saye's Court was pulled down long ago ?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes ; the shady avenues and closely-cropped hedges, which good Mr. Evelyn so much delighted in, have long since given place to ranges of buildings appropriated to stores of provisions for the navy. The immense pile of buildings known as the " Victualling Office " has been erected at different periods, some of the storehouses being on the site of the once celebrated gardens of

Saye's Court. But we must not linger longer on this part of Kent.

HERBERT.

The ancient town of Dover is one of the most interesting places in this county; whether we regard its antiquity, natural features, or historical associations. It is situated in a beautiful valley on the coast, whose white cliffs rise almost perpendicularly to a height of more than 400 feet; and its scenery is ranked among the most majestic of any along the southern coast. The noble castle, so celebrated as one of the grandest of our national fortresses, is built upon a hill 468 feet above the level of the sea, and exhibits specimens of Roman, Saxon, and Norman architecture.

KATE.

Do you know, mamma, whether any part of Dover Castle was built by Julius Cæsar during his invasion of Britain?

MRS. LESLIE.

The Roman fortifications which exist, and which consist principally of the remains of a camp, and an octagonal building called the watch-tower, have sometimes been ascribed to Cæsar; but during his two invasions of our isle, he must have found so much employment in endeavouring to subjugate the native tribes, that it is scarcely likely he would have called off his men to build towers and fortresses. The more reasonable opinion is, that the Roman works of Dover Castle were built at a later period, probably in the reign of Claudius, after the Romans had succeeded in obtaining power and dominion in Britain.

HERBERT.

Dover Castle was a celebrated fortress at the time of the Norman Conquest, and immediately after the battle of Hastings was besieged by William, to whom it surrendered after a slight resistance. The Conqueror then hanged the governor, burnt the town, and marched towards London, disarming the hostility of the Kentish men by the grant of peculiar privileges.

MARION.

I believe William the Conqueror considerably enlarged and strengthened the original fortress?

MRS. LESLIE.

He did; and was assisted in the work by eight trusty Norman warriors, who each built a tower that served the double purpose of his own residence and a structure of defence. Some of these towers are still noble specimens of Norman architecture. The keep, a huge erection 120 feet square and 100 feet high, was built in the reign of Henry the Second, on the supposed site of the Roman prætorium.

HERBERT.

Dover Castle was besieged by Louis, the Dauphin of France, during the reign of John, and it was in this town that that unhappy monarch resigned his crown to Pandulph, the legate of the Pope.

MARION.

In the royal apartments of the keep of Dover Castle, poor Charles the First received Henrietta Maria of France on the day she became his bride, and it was in the same place that they met, eighteen years later, to exchange a last farewell.

KATE.

Dover is a garrison town, is it not, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

It is. During the French Revolution it was deemed desirable to convert the castle into a military station. A sum of 50,000*l.* was voted by parliament for that purpose, when extensive barracks were excavated in the solid rock, and accommodation provided for a garrison of several thousand men.

KATE.

What a work of difficulty it must be to construct buildings out of the solid rock!

MRS. LESLIE.

Science has effected some stupendous achievements in this town within the present century, and more particularly during the last

few years. The Shakspeare Cliff (immortalised by the Bard of Avon in his tragedy of "King Lear"), an almost perpendicular elevation, rising to a height of 350 feet, has been completely perforated by tunnels belonging to the South-eastern railway; the new harbour works, a gigantic undertaking, commenced in 1848, by which 700 acres are to be enclosed by a huge sea-wall, 90 feet in width at bottom, and 50 at the top, are progressing favourably; and the submarine electric telegraph affords instantaneous communication with France. Dover has, moreover, improved of late years, by the erection of a great number of handsome buildings, and has acquired considerable celebrity as a marine residence; while the constant influx of passengers arriving from, or departing to, the continent, adds very materially to the prosperity of the town. The population of Dover is about 22,000. Before we notice the remaining inland towns, we had better briefly refer to the other places of interest along the coast.

MARION.

First and foremost, then, is Deal, so memorable in the early history of our country as the place where Julius Cæsar effected a landing, after he had been frightened away from Dover by the high cliffs and formidable-looking Britons, who were assembled on them, ready to oppose his invasion. Deal is situated directly opposite to the Downs, a celebrated roadstead, or anchorage ground for shipping, about eight miles long and six broad; where both outward and homeward-bound vessels frequently lie at anchor, before pursuing or concluding their voyage.

KATE.

The town of Deal consists of two parts, called Upper and Lower Deal. Upper Deal was formerly only a small fishing village, and Lower Deal has been entirely built during the last two centuries. It is a bustling, flourishing town, deriving its prosperity principally from the traffic caused by the quantity of shipping generally lying in the Downs. Its population is about 7000.

MRS. LESLIE.

Opposite to this part of the coast lie the Goodwin Sands, supposed (according to tradition) to have been formerly an island,

on which were situated the estates of Godwin, earl of Kent. This island is said to have been destroyed by the sea in 1087. The Goodwin Sands, which extend about ten miles in length and from three to four in breadth, are a dangerous part of the sea to mariners.

WILLIE.

I have been looking on the map at the Isle of Thanet, mamma, in which, you know, are the celebrated watering-places of Ramsgate, Margate, and Broadstairs, and am so much surprised to find that it scarcely looks like an island at all!

MRS. LESLIE.

It has certainly very slight pretensions to the name and characteristics of an island, being separated from the mainland only by two very narrow branches of the river Stour, one of which, you see, falls into the sea at Pegwell Bay, and the other at the village of Reculver; and although this tract of land is bounded by the sea on the other sides, the channels of the Stour are much too insignificant to form such an important separation from the land as is necessary to constitute an island.

MARION.

The well known sea-bathing places Willie has mentioned have but few important historical associations. But little more than a century ago, Margate and Ramsgate were obscure fishing villages, though now possessing unitedly a resident population of more than 20,000, augmented in the summer season by crowds of visitors from the metropolis, who resort thither for the advantages of sea-bathing and healthful recreation. Broadstairs formerly carried on a considerable trade with Greenland and the Baltic sea, but is now chiefly distinguished as a retired and fashionable watering-place.

MRS. LESLIE.

The so-called Isle of Thanet has been the scene of some important events connected with the history of our country. Richborough Castle, one of the noblest of our Roman remains, near to Pegwell Bay, is said to have been the landing-place of Hengist and Horsa, who with three ships and about 300 of their fellow-Saxons, came over at the invitation of the Britons, and received

the grant of the little isle before their entertainers became acquainted with the faithless character of their new allies. At a later period, Thanet was also the landing-place and retreat of large bodies of the Danes, from whence they proceeded to plunder and burn the surrounding country. And it was on the Isle of Thanet that Augustine received permission from Ethelbert to proclaim the glad tidings of salvation in his dominions.

HERBERT.

When we were last in that part of Kent, I was not aware of the pleasure to be derived from the study of archæology, or I am sure I should have begged papa to pay a visit to Richborough Castle. I have lately seen it described as one of the most perfect specimens of Roman castra to be found in Britain. The walls are from ten to fourteen feet thick, and more than twenty-five feet high; and notwithstanding the lapse of nearly eighteen hundred years since their erection, are said to impress the beholder with awe by their massiveness and strength.

MARION.

The village of Reculver is also an interesting spot to the archæologist, from the portions of Roman walls that remain, and the antiquities which have been discovered. It is also celebrated for two high square towers, which serve as land-marks.

WILLIE.

Oh! I remember those high towers which we used to see whenever we went out for a sail; the boatmen called them "The Sisters," I suppose because they were so much alike.

MRS. LESLIE.

The church to which those towers belonged, was said to have been erected by an abbess of Faversham in memory of a sister who was shipwrecked off the coast at that place, from which circumstance the church was called "The Sisters."

HERBERT.

I suppose we must not leave the coast of Kent without paying a visit to the Isle of Sheppey, which is situated just at the confluence

of the Thames and Medway, and is chiefly noted for its royal dock-yard, constructed in the reign of Charles the Second. The town, which is of modern erection, derives its principal support from the dockyard, and from a garrison which is maintained there. Its population is above 8000.

KATE.

Gravesend, on the south bank of the Thames, is a town that has risen to importance during the present century. In the summer season it is a favourite resort of visitors from London and the vicinity, on account of its easy access by steam-packet and railway. Its population is about 17,000.

MARION.

What a wonderful change has taken place in the present day in the reputation of Sydenham in this county! A few years ago it was known only as a pretty suburban village, deriving its chief interest from having been the residence of the poet Campbell; it has now a world-wide celebrity, arising from its magnificent Crystal Palace, which was removed from Hyde Park after the Exhibition of 1851, and having been reconstructed in a style of unexampled grandeur, was opened by Her Majesty on the 10th of June, 1854.

KATE.

The Crystal Palace actually stands in Surrey. Does it not, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

It does; but it is so immediately on the confines of Kent, and is so generally associated with Sydenham, that I quite approve of Marion's notice of it here.

MARION.

Mine has been a very brief notice, mamma; but you know it would be worse than useless to attempt anything like a description of this magnificent place.

MRS. LESLIE.

I perfectly agree with you, my dear. We may, however, just observe that the palace and its beautiful grounds occupy a space

of 200 acres; that its construction of glass and iron is a new feature in architecture, and "essentially the creation of the 19th century;" and that within its crystal walls are to be found not only the choicest productions of nature, and specimens of every modern work of art, but the most marvellous illustrations of the manners and customs of successive ages from the earliest period of the world's history. We have so far exceeded our usual time, that we must be contented with merely mentioning the remaining places of note in this county. Maidstone, Faversham, and Sandwich, as well as the towns and villages which intervene, are famed for their luxuriant hop-gardens. Tunbridge Wells has long been celebrated for mineral waters; and Dartford for powder and paper-mills. Eltham has a claim to notice, from its having once possessed a royal palace, in which several of our kings resided prior to the time of Henry the Eighth, when it was deserted for that of Greenwich; and the insignificant village Hever, derives a degree of interest from its ancient castle, the home of the ill-fated Anne Boleyn.

WILLIE.

Oh! mamma, how much I wish you had time to tell us something about that unfortunate queen! Do you know I think, after all, our conversations are more interesting when we have not so many places to mention, because then you are able to go into the particulars of every place, and tell us more about what the noted people said and did!

MRS. LESLIE.

At any rate, Willie, I have now only time to tell you that Sussex is the next county for our consideration.

CONVERSATION XXXII.

SUSSEX.

SUBJECTS :— Boundaries. — Size. — Ancient Fortifications. — Early Inhabitants. — Subjugation by Vespasian. — Natural Divisions. — Former Mineral Wealth. — Chief Rivers. — City of Chichester. — Cathedral. — Former Manufacture. — Changes of Coast of Sussex. — Winchelsea. — Brighton. — Discovery of Chalybeate Spring. — Patronage of George the Fourth. — Royal Pavilion. — Chain Pier. — Prosperity of Town. — New Shoreham. — Hastings. — Landing of William the Conqueror. — Pretensions to English Crown. — First Steps on Landing. — Battle of Hastings. — Victory long doubtful. — Decided by a well-executed Stratagem. — Death of Harold. — Battle Abbey. — Division of County among Followers of Conqueror. — Town of Hastings. — St. Leonard's. — Lewes. — Celebrated Battle. — Character of Edward the First. — Horsham. — Worthing. — Arundel. — Picturesque Scenery. — Arundel Castle. — Historical Recollections. — Modern Festival in commemoration of the signing of Magna Charta.

“YOU are aware, my dear children,” observed Mrs. Leslie, “that the county we are to consider this morning derived its name from the South Saxons, an appellation by which its inhabitants were distinguished during the period of the heptarchy. Their kingdom was then called Suth-Sex, the southern part of which has long since been corrupted into Sussex. We are now all attention, Willie, while you point out how this southern maritime county is bounded?”

WILLIE.

Sussex is bounded on the north by Surrey and Kent; on the south and east by the English Channel; and on the west by Hampshire.

KATE.

The greatest length of Sussex is from east to west, and in that direction is about seventy-six miles. Its greatest breadth is about twenty-seven miles.

HERBERT.

Even at this day Sussex possesses many evidences of its British origin. In the neighbourhood of the Downs, ancient British fortifications have been distinctly traced, and the names of several towns and villages are of purely British derivation. At the period of the Roman invasion, this county was inhabited by a warlike people, called by the Romans, Regni; who, like the other southern tribes, appear to have been not entirely destitute of the comforts and conveniences of civilised life. Some rude earthen vessels, believed by archæologists to have been of ancient British manufacture, have been brought to light by excavation, and serve to prove that the pottery art at least was not wholly unknown to our barbarous ancestors.

KATE.

Did Cæsar subdue this British tribe during either of his invasions?

HERBERT.

No; it does not appear that he visited this county, which did not fall under the Roman yoke until the reign of Claudius, when it was subjugated by the Roman general Vespasian, and was included in the province of Britannia Prima.

MARION.

But Vespasian was himself a Roman emperor!

HERBERT.

Not at that time, Marion; at a later period of his life his military services were rewarded by his elevation to the imperial throne, which high position he occupied with credit to himself and satisfaction to the people; reforming the army, purifying the senate, and administering justice with impartiality.

MARION.

Sussex appears to have been divided by nature into three dis-

tinct districts: the maritime, which borders on the sea, and contains some celebrated bathing places; the Downs, a ridge of chalk hills to the north of that district, which feed numerous flocks of sheep; and the Weald, an extensive district (formerly a vast forest) in the centre of the county. In Camden's time, Sussex abounded in iron mines, the produce of which constituted its principal wealth. His description of the never-ceasing noise, occasioned by the numerous iron works, reminds one of South Staffordshire at the present day, but is singularly inapplicable to this agricultural and grazing county.

KATE.

Are the iron mines of Sussex exhausted, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

They were abandoned more in consequence of fuel for smelting becoming scarce, than from a failure of the iron ore. The Weald of Kent, Surrey, and Sussex, from whence our iron was formerly chiefly procured, is an exception to the general rule of pit-coal being found where iron is abundant, consequently the mines ceased to be worked, as the use of that combustible mineral for smelting became known and appreciated.

KATE.

The principal rivers of Sussex are the Ouse, the Rother, the Adur, the Arun, and the Lavant. The city of Chichester, the capital of the county, is almost surrounded by the Lavant.

HERBERT.

Chichester is a place of great antiquity. It is supposed to have been the capital of the Regni, and the residence of Vespasian about the year 50. Its Saxon name was Cisson-ceastre: the former part was derived from Cissa, a king of the South Saxons, who lived about the end of the fifth century; while the termination *ceastre* proves that it was a fortified post of the Romans.

MRS. LESLIE.

Chichester contains some fine specimens of ancient architecture, although the place is associated with but few events affording

subjects of interest to the historian. The city walls, the Guild-hall, and beautifully decorated market cross, are attractive objects to the antiquary, and impart a dignity to the place, which is vainly sought in towns of modern date.

HERBERT.

I am glad you do not include the cathedral in the architectural attractions of Chichester; from a plate I have seen of it, I should say it is the most homely of all our chief ecclesiastical edifices. It suffered greatly from the fanaticism of Cromwell's soldiers, and the parts which were then demolished have been restored with so little regard to propriety, that the whole presents a most incongruous and unsightly appearance.

KATE.

Chichester is said to have carried on a very extensive manufacture of needles about two centuries ago, but that branch of industry is now entirely extinct. Its population is about 8000.

MARION.

The coast of Sussex has experienced some remarkable changes within the last few centuries. In the reign of Henry the Sixth, Winchelsea, now an insignificant village, containing but 778 inhabitants, was a flourishing sea-port town, and one of the principal places of embarkation for the continent; while Brighton, which has now a population of nearly 70,000, was in our friend Camden's time so inconsiderable a place as not to have been thought worthy of notice in his "Britannia."

MRS. LESLIE.

The rapidity with which Brighton has risen to its present height of importance and popularity is certainly unexampled in the history of watering-places. About the year 1750, the discovery of a chalybeate spring in the vicinity began to attract visitors to the obscure fishing station, then known as Brighthelmstone; but its rapid growth and prosperity is undoubtedly to be ascribed principally to the patronage of George the Fourth, who, when Prince of Wales, took a fancy to the spot, and erected the Royal Pavilion as a marine residence.

KATE.

If I were going to build a palace, I should choose a different style of architecture. Those curious ornaments at the top look like so many old-fashioned pepper-boxes.

MRS. LESLIE.

As a specimen of oriental architecture the Pavilion, with its numerous cupolas and minarets, has a claim to admiration; but, certainly, to our English taste, is not to be compared in majestic grandeur with our old baronial halls.

WILLIE.

The Pavilion is never used as a royal residence now, is it, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

No, my dear. I suppose its oriental appearance was not more congenial to the taste of our good queen than to those of the majority of her subjects, as she relinquished it as a residence many years ago. It was afterwards purchased by the authorities of Brighton for 53,000*l.*, and its luxuriously decorated apartments have since been used for public entertainments. The beautiful grounds belonging to it afford a delightful promenade.

HERBERT.

The chain-pier is one of the most magnificent structures of Brighton. It consists of a platform a thousand feet long, and about thirteen feet broad, suspended by eight chains, which are supported by four cast-iron towers two hundred feet apart. At the end is a large square platform, provided with seats, and often covered with an awning, where visitors congregate to inhale the invigorating breezes from the sea.

MARION.

As Brighton rose to eminence in consequence of royal patronage, I should have imagined it would have declined when that patronage was withdrawn.

MRS. LESLIE.

On the contrary, it has greatly increased in size and prosperity

during the last few years ; and, indeed, it possesses so many local advantages, that I imagine its popularity is likely to be permanent. To its natural adaptation for a sea-bathing place, it unites all the attractions of a magnificent and luxurious town, and as such, is sure to be a favourite resort of wealth and fashion.

HERBERT.

New Shoreham is a flourishing sea-port, which has risen upon the decay of Old Shoreham, an adjacent town formerly of some importance, and said to have been the landing-place of Ella, the first king of the South Saxons, who defeated the Britons in the year 477. New Shoreham contains a population of upwards of 30,000. It has a commodious harbour and dockyard, and is engaged in ship-building to some extent.

KATE.

I think these modern towns are very uninteresting, for there is nothing historical belonging to them. It is much more pleasant to notice places which have been celebrated for great events.

MRS. LESLIE.

Your historic taste may at once be gratified, my dear, by giving us some account of time-honoured Hastings, and the important event which occurred in its locality, and produced so great a change in the government of our country.

KATE.

Of course, mamma, you allude to the battle of Hastings, and to the conquest of England by William the Norman ; but I suppose I must go back to the earliest account we have of the town of Hastings ?

MRS. LESLIE.

• Certainly, Katie.

KATE.

Its name is supposed to have been derived from the Danish pirate, Hastings, who invaded England in the reign of Alfred the Great, and erected a fortress at the place. A town soon sprang up, and quickly rose to importance, and in the reign of Athelstan possessed a mint.

HERBERT.

The neighbourhood of Hastings is more distinguished than the town itself for those memorable events which overthrew the Saxon dynasty, and brought England under the Norman yoke. At Bulverhithe, near Pevensey, William and his Norman army landed; and the so-called battle of Hastings was fought eight miles from the town, on a heath, then called Epiton, the name of which was afterwards changed to Battle, in memory of the engagement which occurred there.

MRS. LESLIE.

Gibson, in his "Additions to Camden," remarks, that the venerable antiquary had fallen into a mistake with reference to the term Epiton, which was not the name of any particular place, but was a word used indiscriminately for a battle-field.

HERBERT.

Thank you, mamma; I must consult Dr. Winstanley upon the derivation of that word.

MARION.

William, duke of Normandy, appears to have silenced any scruples he might have had about laying claim to the English throne, by affecting to believe that it was left to him by the will of Edward the Confessor, who, having been educated in Normandy, had many Norman friends and favourites. Harold had, moreover, when a captive in Normandy, bound himself by an oath to use his influence with Edward to appoint William his successor. This extorted oath Harold failed to keep, and upon the death of the Confessor was himself immediately crowned king; his pretensions to the throne resting on the circumstance of his mother being a sister of Canute the Great, while he overlooked the claim of the rightful heir, Edgar Atheling, the grandson of Edmund Ironsides.

MRS. LESLIE.

The extreme youth of Edgar Atheling was deemed a sufficient reason for his being set aside by the Wittenagemote, or great council of the nation, which itself raised Harold to the throne, from

a conviction of his military talents and wisdom in the art of government ; of which he had given many instances in the assistance he had rendered to Edward the Confessor, whose weak and irresolute disposition often stood in need of Harold's promptitude and bravery.

WILLIE.

I think it was enough to make William angry with Harold when he found he had not only broken his promise, but was even made king himself. But pray, dear mamma, tell us all you can remember about the famous battle of Hastings.

MRS. LESLIE.

The first thing William did, after landing his Norman army, was to burn, or, as some authors say, sink his ships, so that his soldiers might know they could not get back to their own country, by which means he compelled them to use their utmost endeavours to make themselves masters of England. He then commenced the erection of a fort, and prepared for hostilities.

KATE.

But where was Harold, that he made no opposition to the landing of the Norman army?

MRS. LESLIE.

He was defending his dominions in the North against a band of Norwegian invaders, so that more than a fortnight elapsed before he was able to repel the advances of his Norman foes. At length, on the 14th of October, 1066, the two armies met for conflict. Harold arranged his forces on a hill overlooking the Norman camp, and planted the royal standard of England on the highest point, determined to conquer or die in its defence. The Norman army, which was greatly superior to the Saxon, both in numbers and warlike skill, advanced to meet him, and commenced the attack by a shower of arrows from their cross-bows, which was met with undaunted valour by the Saxons. The Norman cavalry at length gained the summit of the hill, when both armies fought hand to hand with desperate fury, the Normans using swords and

lances, — the Saxons, Danish battle-axes. The engagement commenced at nine in the morning, and for several hours the success seemed doubtful, when William, by a well-executed stratagem, gained an advantage which neither the bravery nor superior number of his forces had previously been able to effect.

KATE.

Pray tell us what his stratagem was, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

He directed his men to feign a retreat, which the Saxons, believing real, were drawn away from their position in order to follow, but the wily Normans no sooner saw their foes disorganised, than they fell upon them with great fury, and a scene of the utmost confusion and destruction ensued. A little before sunset an arrow pierced the eye of Harold and penetrated to his brain, when he almost immediately expired. His fall was quickly followed by those of his brothers Gurth and Leofwin, after which the English standard was cut down, and the flag of the Norman Conqueror was soon waving in its place.

KATE.

What a fearful loss of life there must have been!

MRS. LESLIE.

The loss of the Normans has been estimated at 15,000; that of the Saxons is unknown, but it must have been considerably greater; their defeat, however, was not occasioned by any deficiency of bravery, but entirely by the want of cavalry, and greater experience in the art of war.

KATE.

I should have thought the Saxons would have been most expert soldiers after so many battles with the Danes!

MRS. LESLIE.

Much more is comprehended in the art of war than mere practice in fighting. Military discipline and strategy are often more effective than the highest unskilled valour; and in those qualities

the Normans greatly excelled, while the superiority of their cavalry completed their success.

WILLIE.

Miss Selby told me last night, mamma, that Battle Abbey was built by William the Conqueror, in memory of his famous victory.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; that beautiful ecclesiastical structure, of which some fine ruins still exist, owed its foundation to a vow made by William before the engagement, to the effect that he would build a church upon the spot if he obtained the victory. The village of Battle gradually sprang up around the abbey, and to this day is regarded with interest from the memorable event which occurred there.

MARION.

I should scarcely have expected William would have had humanity enough to give up the body of Harold to his mother.

MRS. LESLIE.

There is great reason to question his having done so, although it is mentioned as a fact by some historians. A French author, and a very accurate one too, relates, that though the weight of the corpse in gold was offered for it to the Conqueror, he refused to give it up, and had it buried on the beach, sarcastically remarking, "He guarded the coast while living, let him continue to guard it after death."

HERBERT.

Almost immediately after the Conquest, the entire county of Sussex was divided among the followers of the Conqueror. The whole *rape* of Hastings, including thirteen hundreds, and now numbering forty-eight parishes, was bestowed on Robert, earl of Eu, a Norman nobleman who had signalled himself by his skill and bravery at the battle of Hastings. The castle at Hastings, now an interesting ruin, is supposed to have been built by him.

WILLIE.

You explained to us once, mamma, the meaning of a hundred, will you tell us now what is meant by a rape?

MRS. LESLIE.

It is an ancient term, peculiar to the county of Sussex, and, I believe, merely signifies a tract of land, or district. Sussex is divided into six rapes, the eastern part containing the rapes of Lewes, Pevensey, and Hastings; the western, those of Chichester, Arundel, and Bramber. After the Conquest each of these rapes was given to a powerful Norman nobleman, who either enlarged and strengthened an old castle, or built a new one where he resided, and kept the vanquished Anglo-Saxons in a state of awe and subjection.

MARION.

The town of Hastings, which is built between two high cliffs sloping towards the sea, is celebrated for the mildness of its air and the picturesque beauty of the surrounding scenery. The fashionable suburb of St. Leonards, formerly a mile and a half from Hastings, is now united to that town by a continuous range of elegant buildings, facing the sea; and is much frequented by families of distinction during the bathing season. The population of Hastings is 17,000, that of St. Leonards 1340.

HERBERT.

The market town of Lewes is a place of great antiquity, and supposed to have been the site of a Roman station. Its relative importance in Saxon times may be inferred from its possessing two mints, while Chichester had only one. At the Conquest the town, along with the entire rape, was bestowed upon William de Warren, a Norman nobleman, who married Gundred, daughter of the Conqueror.

KATE.

I suppose Lewes is a town which has declined of late years? I find it had formerly extensive works for the casting of cannon, which manufacture has now ceased to exist.

MRS. LESLIE.

It has yielded in importance to modern towns, although it is still a considerable place, containing a population of between 9000 and 10,000, and carrying on an extensive manufacture of paper.

MARION.

The neighbourhood of Lewes is famous in history for the celebrated battle fought near the town on the 14th of May, 1264, between the forces of Henry the Third and the confederated barons headed by Simon de Montfort, when the king and his valiant son Edward were taken prisoners.

HERBERT.

In that battle we have an instance of what mamma was just observing, of the superiority of military judgment and experience over untrained bravery. If the young prince had been as politic as he was valiant, there is no doubt the result would have been very different; but elated by seeing a body of the enemy fleeing before him, he unwisely pursued them four miles beyond the field of battle, when De Montfort, taking advantage of his absence, overpowered the remainder of the royal army, took the weak-minded king prisoner, and, on the return of his valiant son, surrounded him by troops, and sent him under a strong escort to Dover Castle.

KATE.

I begin to see that a skilful general depends more upon his head than his hands. I suppose, Prince Edward gained wisdom by experience; for I remember he afterwards gained a decisive victory over the barons at Evesham, in which De Montfort and his son Henry were killed.

WILLIE.

That brave young prince was afterwards king Edward the First, was he not, Katie?

KATE.

He was, and I believe altogether was considered a very good king; but, if I had been one of his subjects, I think I should have liked him much better if he had not been so fond of fighting.

MRS. LESLIE.

I agree with you, Katie. Edward the First had undoubtedly some great and noble qualities, and greatly benefited his country by the encouragement he gave to commerce, and the rights and privileges he granted to his subjects. At the same time his enter-

prising and warlike spirit produced much misery and bloodshed, and in some instances overpowered his natural nobility of character. The circumstances of brutality attending the execution of Sir William Wallace, is a stigma on his memory which nothing can remove.—But there are still some other places in Sussex which demand a passing notice.

WILLIE.

Horsham is a market town, with a population of nearly 6000; and Worthing, a pleasant watering-place, which has sprung up within the last half century, and now contains between 5000 and 6000 inhabitants.

MARION.

The ancient town of Arundel has a claim to our attention, not on account of size, for it has less than 3000 inhabitants, but for its romantic and picturesque beauty. The noble castle, which stands upon the summit of a hill overlooking the river Arun, is for the most part a modern erection, but has been made so closely to correspond with the ancient fortress, that all its feudal grandeur is retained. The original Saxon keep, some smaller towers, and other parts of the ancient structure, still remain.

KATE.

Arundel Castle has been a place of some note in history, has it not?

MARION.

It afforded an asylum to the empress Maude, on her arrival from Normandy to contest her right with Stephen to the crown of England. The castle was at that time the residence of queen Adeliza, the relict of Henry the First, and the stepmother of Maude; and although not one of her partisans, she hospitably entertained her, and refused to give her up to the demands of Stephen, who surrounded the castle with a strong force. On the resolute refusal of the queen to violate the laws of hospitality by the surrender of her kinswoman, Stephen generously allowed Maude to leave the Castle unmolested.

HERBERT.

Arundel Castle participated largely in the disasters occasioned

by the civil wars during the reign of Charles the First. It was taken first by one party, and then by the other, and ultimately reduced to a heap of ruins by the Parliamentarians.

MRS. LESLIE.

I happened to meet the other day with an interesting account of a great festival which took place at Arundel Castle, on the 15th of June, 1815, for the purpose of celebrating the sixth centenary of the signing of Magna Charta. A brilliant assemblage of nearly three hundred distinguished guests graced the ducal board, their noble host, the late duke of Norfolk, having provided an entertainment in every way worthy and significant of the grand event which they had met to commemorate. The baronial hall, instead of being decorated with the tasteful embellishments usual to such courtly scenes, was hung with complete suits of ancient armour, while swords, spears, and other warlike implements, glittered on the walls, and every extraneous aid was employed to dignify the memory of those noble barons whose magnanimous conduct, 600 years before, had laid the foundation of English liberty.

WILLIE.

I wish, mamma, you would tell us something more about Magna Charta and king John.

MRS. LESLIE.

Not this morning, my love. Our next conversation will be on the county of Surrey, in which is situated the celebrated meadow of Runnymede, the spot on which the barons compelled John to comply with their just demands; and I promise you I will then tell you all I can remember about that interesting event.

CONVERSATION XXXIII.

SURREY.

SUBJECTS:—Boundaries.—Size.—Ancient Inhabitants.—Invasion of Romans.—Coway-Stakes.—Vigorous Resistance of Britons.—Final Subjugation.—Fine Scenery.—Chief Rivers.—Guildford.—Ancient Castle.—Runnymede.—Provisions of Magna Charta.—Meeting of King John and the Barons.—Signature of Magna Charta.—Arbitrary Laws.—John's Regret at the Concessions granted.—Ancient Errors of Sovereign and People.—Power now judiciously balanced and defined.—Croydon.—Entertainment to Queen Elizabeth.—Kingston-upon-Thames.—Coronation Stone.—Farnham.—Hops.—Noble Castle.—Ruins of Waverley Abbey.—Chertsey.—Benedictine Abbey.—Poet Cowley.—Godalming.—Dorking.—Epsom Races : Evils not unfrequently attendant.—Epsom Salts.—Richmond.—Populous Parishes.—Rural Villages.—Putney.—Thomas Cromwell.—Ann of Cleves.—Holbein.—Lambeth.—Hardicanute.—Singular Law made by Edgar.—Lambeth Palace.—Persecuted Lollards.—Forerunners of the Reformation.—Gunpowder Plot.—Religious Intolerance of James the First and Elizabeth.—Blessing of perfect religious Liberty.

“Of course, mamma, you remember your promise about Magna Charta,” said Willie to his mother, when she next joined her children for conversation on “England as it was and is.”

“Certainly, my dear ; and I shall be happy to fulfil it in proper time,” was her reply ; “but you know there are several subjects which previously claim our attention. In the first place, you may mention the boundaries and size of Surrey.”

WILLIE.

Surrey is bounded on the north by Middlesex, from which it is separated by the Thames ; on the east by Kent ; on the south by

Sussex; and on the west by Berkshire and Hampshire. It is about thirty-seven miles long and twenty-seven broad.

HERBERT.

This county appears to have been anciently included in the territories of the Regni, with the exception of the eastern border, which it is thought probably belonged to Cantium or Kent. On Cæsar's second expedition to our island, he passed through this county on his way to the territories of Cassivelaunus, and is said to have crossed the Thames at a ford called Coway-Stakes, near Walton-upon-Thames.

KATE.

Coway-Stakes! what a singular name.

HERBERT.

The name perpetuates the vigorous opposition of the Britons under Cassivelaunus to the inroads of the Roman invaders. On becoming aware of the intention of the Romans to ford the river, the Britons defended the bank with sharp stakes firmly driven in the soil. The indomitable spirit of the Romans, however, overcame all difficulties, and although in fording the river they could only manage to keep their heads above water, when they reached the shore they soon compelled the Britons to flee before them. On the entire subjugation of the county, it was included in the province of Britannia Prima; and during the Saxon heptarchy formed part of the kingdom of Sussex.

MARION.

This county was called Suth-rey in Saxon times, from its situation on the south bank of the Thames. The termination *rey*, according to Camden, signifying a river.

KATE.

The scenery of some parts of Surrey is very picturesque, and the county is everywhere studded with seats of the nobility and gentry. It is watered by the Thames and its tributaries, the Bourn, the Wey, the Mole, and the Wandle.

WILLIE.

Guildford is the county town, upon the river Wey.

HERBERT.

The town of Guildford is very deficient in historical interest. It is well built, and formerly possessed a good clothing trade, which has long since become extinct. It now carries on an extensive trade with the metropolis in corn, malt, and ale, and is celebrated for its races, which take place annually in the Whitsun week. The summer assizes are held alternately at this town and Croydon. The population of Guildford is about 7000.

MRS. LESLIE.

Guildford possesses a ruined tower of an ancient castle, no doubt a relic of feudal times; but I am not aware of any important event connected with its history. As the signing of Magna Charta is the grand historical transaction relating to this county, I think we may as well direct our attention to Runnymede, before we notice the numerous towns and populous villages of Surrey. Perhaps, Katie, you can tell us in what part of the county the celebrated meadow is situated.

KATE.

Runnymede is a large green plain in the parish of Egham, on the northern border of the county, between Windsor in Berkshire, and Staines in Middlesex. The Egham races are annually held there.

HERBERT.

I am so glad that the meadow remains in much the same state as it was in the days of our worthy patriotic barons, and that the enterprising spirit of the age has not covered it with bricks and mortar.

MRS. LESLIE.

I remember, Herbert, you gave us such a good account of the noble perseverance of the barons in compelling King John to consent to meet them to listen to their just demands, that I engaged you to describe the proceedings which took place at Runnymede on the memorable 15th of June, 1215.

HERBERT.

I think there is scarcely any scene depicted in the annals of

English history of such surpassing interest as that which Runnymede presented on that important day. All classes were anxiously looking to the result of that great meeting, which was to decide the question whether they were henceforward to be subject to the despotic will of a tyrant, or be at liberty to think and act as free men.

MRS. LESLIE.

Not all classes, Herbert. There was one section of the people, and that a very large one, who might have beheld the proceedings of that day with listless apathy. I allude to those in a state of villanage. To such, the provisions of the Great Charter were not intended to extend, as they were believed to be so completely the property of their masters, as not to form any part of the general community. Out of the sixty-three clauses contained in the famous Magna Charta, one only had reference to the villan, and that clause merely related to the protection of his implements of husbandry; himself, his wife, and children being still included in the goods and chattels of his master.

KATE.

After all, the barons appear to have been very selfish and inconsistent, to take so much trouble to secure their own liberties, and yet to pay no regard at all to the rights of the labouring classes.

MRS. LESLIE.

Selfishness is, alas! inherent in the human heart; and villanage had so long existed that it was scarcely regarded as an evil, excepting by those who suffered from it. But though Magna Charta did not contemplate the emancipation of the villan, it gradually effected it, and laid the foundation of that free constitution whose privileges now extend to every member of the community. But we are keeping Herbert from giving us an account of the proceedings of that eventful day.

HERBERT.

The royal procession, which consisted of the king, Pandulph, the legate of the Pope, eight bishops, and a few English nobles,

slowly moved from Windsor to the "Mead of Council." The whole body of English barons, clad in complete armour, with Earl Fitz Walter at their head, advanced from Staines. Both parties encamped at a little distance from each other; the king, arrayed in his royal robes and golden crown, awaited with feigned complacency the part he was required to perform in the extraordinary scene; and when the barons presented their demands, agreed to them with scarcely any alteration.

MRS. LESLIE.

Some authorities state that the conferences lasted five days, and that although the Great Charter bears the date of the 15th of June, it was not actually signed and sealed until the 19th. Copies of Magna Charta were immediately after sent to every diocese in the kingdom, and read publicly twice a year in all the cathedrals that the people might bear their rights in mind.

KATE.

I should think there was not much danger of their being forgotten.

WILLIE.

How much I should like to see a copy of Magna Charta. Miss Selby says there is one in the British Museum.

MRS. LESLIE.

It would be necessary for you to be a much better Latin scholar than you are, before you could read it; and even Herbert would be quite at a loss to understand the meaning of many of its obsolete terms and phrases. Happily for us, there is no necessity to consult it in the present day; but as a memorial of the early struggle for independence, it is the most interesting document extant.

WILLIE.

I thought we should have heard more about what was in Magna Charta, and in what kind of manner it caused such a happy change in the condition of the people.

MRS. LESLIE.

Before the time of the Charter, all persons who held estates

under the crown were in the absolute power of the king, who could imprison or banish them, and dispose of their goods without reference to any law whatever. No lady of rank could marry without the consent of the king; and, what was a greater hardship still, he could compel her to marry whom he chose, or to submit to very heavy fines in case of disobedience. Fines were inflicted for even the most trifling offences, and, in fact, the king had absolute power over the persons and property of his subjects. By the signing of Magna Charta most of these grievances were redressed, the king's power became limited, and no person could be punished for an offence except in accordance with the laws of the land.

KATE.

I remember John soon repented of signing Magna Charta.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; on his return to Windsor Castle his rage and fury against the barons knew no bounds; and after several days spent in vehement imprecations against them, and unavailing lamentations at the concessions he had made, he departed for Winchester, from whence he withdrew to the Isle of Wight, where he remained three weeks, meditating plans of revenge, his chosen associates being fishermen and sailors. On leaving the island he was joined by bands of foreign mercenaries, who, in the hope of gain, assisted him to make war upon his subjects. He marched through the county of Kent, burnt the houses, and laid siege to Rochester Castle, which, after a vigorous resistance of eight weeks, under a noble baron named D'Albiny, was ultimately compelled to surrender. We need not dwell upon the concluding scenes of this eventful reign. You know that in a moment of despondency the English barons resorted to the unwise step of seeking aid from France; that Louis the Dauphin invaded England; and that the country was unexpectedly relieved by the death of its detested king.

MARION.

There is one thing that I cannot understand about this period of English history. If the conduct of the barons in standing out for their rights and liberties in the reign of John deserves to be

so much extolled, why should the rebellion of the barons under Simon de Montfort, in the succeeding reign of Henry the Third, be generally condemned ?

MRS. LESLIE.

There are few narratives which better serve to show the errors and extremes into which mankind is prone to fall, than those of the period referred to. In the reign of John, the error consisted in the king laying claim to the right of absolute monarchy, without any regard whatever to the liberties of the people. In that of Henry the Third, the fault lay in the opposite extreme—the usurped and self-constituted power of the nobles, who all but ignored that of the king. In the former case, the barons merely struggled for their own rights, while in the latter they endeavoured to deprive the king of his prerogative. We have reason to be thankful for the excellence of our own constitution, in which the power is happily balanced between king, lords, and commons. But we have made a long digression, and must now turn our attention to the towns of Surrey.

KATE.

Croydon is an ancient town, supposed by some antiquaries to have been built upon the site of a Roman station. The town formerly possessed a palace belonging to the archbishops of Canterbury, in which Queen Elizabeth and her whole court were entertained for seven days by Archbishop Parker. The palace was afterwards converted into a calico-printing manufactory ; but the works have since been abandoned, and the trade of the town now principally consists in corn. Its population is about 10,000.

MARION.

Kingston-upon-Thames is also supposed to occupy the site of a Roman station, urns, coins, and other antiquities, having frequently been discovered. It was a place of great importance during the Anglo-Saxon period, and no less than nine of our Saxon kings are said to have been crowned there.

MRS. LESLIE.

Kingston possesses a curious relic of antiquity called the Coro-

nation Stone, on which the Saxon monarchs are said to have sat during the ceremony of coronation. It has been carefully preserved, and in 1850 was removed from its former place near the old church to a conspicuous position in the town, placed upon a pedestal of granite, and surrounded by handsome iron railings. The names of seven Saxon kings who were crowned upon it are inscribed upon the pedestal; two of those mentioned by Speed the historian, having been omitted, as some doubt is entertained by archæologists as to the fact of their coronation having taken place at Kingston.

WILLIE.

How much I should like to see that old stone. But will you tell us, mamma, the names of the kings who were crowned on it?

MRS. LESLIE.

Athelstan, A.D. 924; Edmund, A.D. 940; Edred, A.D. 946; Edgar, A.D. 959; Edward the Second, A.D. 975; Ethelred the Second, A.D. 979; and Edmund the Second, A.D. 1016.

HERBERT.

The preservation of such a curious relic of olden time does honour to the inhabitants of Kingston.

WILLIE.

Farnham, in Surrey, is noted for hops, mamma.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, my dear. Farnham hops are greatly celebrated, and are generally sold at one-third higher price than those of any other district. The town of Farnham was anciently called Fernham, on account of the extensive heaths of fern by which it is surrounded. Farnham Castle was built A.D. 1129, by Henry de Blois, bishop of Winchester, and brother of king Stephen. It was twice destroyed during the civil wars of the country, once in the reign of John, and again in that of Charles the First. After the Restoration, it was rebuilt by bishop Morley, at a cost of 8000*l*. Some fine portions of the ancient structure, however, still remain, and are calculated to impress the beholder with astonishment by their

massiveness and simple grandeur. The picturesque ruins of Waverley Abbey are about a mile and a half from Farnham, close to the modern mansion that bears the same name.

HERBERT.

Chertsey is an ancient town of Surrey, which owes its existence to a Benedictine Abbey founded there soon after Christianity was established in Britain. Scarcely a vestige now remains of that once magnificent structure, which formerly extended over four acres, and is said to have looked more like a town than a single ecclesiastical establishment. Cowley, the poet, was born at Chertsey.

MRS. LESLIE.

Godalming, Dorking, and Epsom, are towns of Surrey; but they possess scarcely sufficient interest to claim a separate notice. Godalming formerly had an extensive clothing trade, and stocking manufactory; but both branches of industry are now nearly extinct. Dorking is chiefly noted for a superior breed of fowls, and Epsom for its annual races, which are held upon the neighbouring downs, and attract a vast assemblage of fashionable visitors.

HERBERT.

You do not approve of races, I know, mamma.

MRS. LESLIE.

I do not, my dear. Many bright prospects have been for ever blighted by a "Derby Day,"—many happy homes made desolate! Let us imagine (and yet it is no ideal picture) a carefully nurtured youth, whose early promise gladdened the hearts of his anxious parents, induced by some questionable companion to attend the "Derby." The excitement of the scene leaves an indelible impression on his memory. As the year revolves, he determines to go again. He goes again and again, until the once guileless spectator becomes a regular and professional frequenter of the "Turf." Extravagant betting is followed by sleepless nights,—broken health,—ruined reputation; and, in not a few instances, forgery and suicide end his melancholy career.

MARION.

Oh, mamma, what a dismal picture you have drawn !

MRS. LESLIE.

And yet the case I have supposed is neither an exaggerated nor unfrequent one.

KATE.

Epsom is also famed for medicinal salts, is it not, mamma ?

MRS. LESLIE.

The medicine known as Epsom Salts was formerly extracted from a mineral spring, in high repute at Epsom during the latter part of the 17th century ; but chemists have since discovered the same medicinal saline property in the union of sulphuric acid and magnesia, termed by them sulphate of magnesia, but which is more commonly called Epsom Salts, from the name of the place whence it was first obtained.

MARION.

The picturesque village of Richmond is one of the most delightful spots in Surrey. It is situated on the side and summit of a hill, on the bank of the Thames, and surrounded by a richly-wooded and fertile country, whose romantic scenery has often formed a subject for the pencil of the artist and the pen of the poet. In size and local advantages Richmond surpasses many towns, and it has a population of above 9000.

MRS. LESLIE.

The county of Surrey also contains the parliamentary boroughs of Southwark and Lambeth ; the populous parishes of Rotherhithe, Bermondsey, Newington, Walworth, Kennington, Camberwell, and Peckham, which all derive their chief importance from their proximity to the metropolis, their respective populations being included in that of London : and it also comprehends the pretty rural villages of Kew, Wimbledon, Dulwich, Norwood, Brixton, Tooting, Mitcham, and Putney.

KATE.

The celebrated Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Essex, was born at Putney, I believe, mamma ?

MRS. LESLIE.

He was, Katie. Perhaps you can give us some particulars of his eventful history.

KATE.

He was the son of a blacksmith, and was raised from that humble station to be chancellor of England, and one of the greatest favourites of Henry the Eighth; but at length having had the misfortune to displease the king, he was sent to the Tower, and afterwards beheaded.

WILLIE.

Henry the Eighth appears to have beheaded nearly all his favourites! But what did Cromwell do to displease him?

MRS. LESLIE.

Being a friend to the Reformation, he advised the king to marry Ann of Cleves, one of the Protestant princesses of Germany, and employed Holbein, a famous painter, to take her portrait, with which Henry was so much pleased, that he immediately demanded her in marriage. Instead, however, of the lady being as beautiful as she had been represented, she was plain and homely-looking, which caused the king to take a violent dislike to her; he therefore soon divorced her, and beheaded Cromwell for having proposed the match.

KATE.

I suppose the unlucky painter also lost his head, for he was more to blame than Cromwell in the matter?

MRS. LESLIE.

He certainly was, and yet he escaped with impunity, which shows that Henry, coarse and vicious as he was, could yet appreciate superior talent; for Holbein was a very eminent artist notwithstanding his flattering representation of Ann of Cleves. I remember an anecdote of Henry the Eighth and Holbein which shows, in a still more striking light, the estimation in which the king held the painter.

WILLIE.

Pray go on, mamma. I am so fond of anecdotes.

MRS. LESLIE.

Some dispute, I forget what, had arisen between a nobleman and Holbein, when the former went to the king, and, in strong terms, demanded the life of the painter. The king desired Holbein to apologise, believing him to be in fault; but the enraged peer would not be satisfied with anything less than the life of the "plebeian," as he called him. Henry at length replied, "My lord, you have not now to do with Holbein, but with me; whatever punishment you may contrive by way of revenge against him, shall surely be inflicted on yourself; remember, that I can, whenever I please, make lords, but I cannot make one Holbein."

WILLIE.

I think that painter was a lucky fellow if he managed to escape being put to death at last. I should have been dreadfully frightened if I had been one of Henry's favourites!

MRS. LESLIE.

I suppose, somehow, Holbein contrived to keep in favour with the king, for he died a natural death in 1554.

KATE.

Lambeth, in Surrey, is mentioned in the early history of our country, as the place where the Danish king, Hardicanute, died suddenly, from intemperance, while attending the marriage feast of one of his nobles.

MRS. LESLIE.

Excess in eating and drinking was one of the most prevalent vices of our Anglo-Saxon and Danish ancestors, and one which produced frequent quarrels, and sometimes ended in bloodshed. I remember reading of a curious method that was adopted by Edgar, with a view to restraining his nobles from intemperance. In those days, when a feast was given, it was the custom for all the guests to drink out of one large vessel, and as those who drank first generally took much more than their share, there was but little left for those who came after, which was sure to occasion a considerable display of angry feeling. To prevent these frequent quarrels, Edgar ordered that all drinking vessels should be pro-

vided with knobs of brass, placed at stated distances from each other, and decreed that no person, under a severe penalty, should drink more than the quantity contained in the vessel between one knob and another.

MARION.

What an extraordinary idea such a law gives one of the amount of etiquette which then prevailed!

HERBERT.

Lambeth Palace has been, for several centuries, the town residence of the archbishops of Canterbury. It possesses considerable historical interest, from the circumstance of its having been the prison-house of the persecuted Lollards, many of whom were brought to the stake by Arundel, archbishop of Canterbury, in the early part of the 15th century.

MARION.

I think all the merit of the Reformation ought not to be ascribed to Luther, for Wickliffe and the Lollards certainly laid the foundation of it, nearly one hundred and fifty years before Luther lived.

MRS. LESLIE.

Undoubtedly. And the seed then sown was never eradicated, although the long period of civil warfare which succeeded was very unfavourable to the extension of vital religion. There had, however, always been some either secretly to deplore, or openly to protest against, the errors and corruptions of the Church of Rome, so that the Reformation in Germany may be said rather to have fanned into a flame the feeble spark of Protestantism in England, than actually to have enkindled it.

HERBERT.

The famous Gunpowder Plot forms an important event in the historical reminiscences of Lambeth. It was there that the conspirators rented a house, and gradually collected in it the gunpowder and combustibles necessary for the dreadful deed they had pledged themselves to execute.

WILLIE.

Oh! I am so glad we are going to hear all about the Gunpowder Plot!

MRS. LESLIE.

You are so well acquainted with all the circumstances of the plot, and the way in which its execution was prevented, that it would be a mere waste of time to go over them this morning. It may, however, be instructive to notice the causes which led to the conspiracy.

KATE.

It was principally owing to the disappointment of the Catholics at finding James the First determined to abandon the religion of his mother, Mary queen of Scots, and become a Protestant, was it not?

MRS. LESLIE.

If James had merely acted in accordance with his own religious convictions, and allowed his Roman Catholic subjects the privilege of doing the same, in all probability such a diabolical scheme would never have been devised. The great mistake of that age was the want of religious toleration. The religion of the sovereign was to be the religion of the people, and any deviation from the prescribed form of worship was visited with the infliction of severe penalties. The death of Elizabeth, and the accession of James, whose mother had lived and died a rigid papist, had raised the hopes of the Roman Catholic party; and it was with feelings of the keenest disappointment that they found the king not only upholding the reformed religion, but actually putting in force all the penal laws against the Catholics, which had been passed during the latter part of the reign of Elizabeth.

KATE.

What! did Elizabeth pass laws against the Catholics, mamma? Why, that was as bad as Mary's persecution of the Protestants!

MRS. LESLIE.

The Protestant intolerance of Elizabeth was of a milder character than the Catholic bigotry of Mary, but fines and imprisonments

“for conscience sake,” were of frequent occurrence, especially during the latter part of her reign. Several of the principal conspirators engaged in the Gunpowder Plot were nearly allied to gentlemen whose estates had been wasted by continual fines for their adherence to the Catholic faith. It is impossible to palliate the enormity of the crime by which these fanatics sought to destroy the Protestant government by a single blow ; but at the same time we cannot hold the government altogether blameless.

MARION.

You know, mamma, the Church of Rome teaches that the end justifies the means, which may be some excuse for the conspirators.

MRS. LESLIE.

Nothing can possibly extenuate the guilt of so diabolical a plot ; but while our minds instinctively recoil from those who could engage in it, we may, at the same time, deplore the religious intolerance which induced it. My principal reason for bringing this matter so prominently before you, has been to awaken emotions of gratitude for the blessing we possess of perfect religious liberty. Our next county is Hampshire.

CONVERSATION XXXIV.

HAMPSHIRE.

SUBJECTS:— New Forest. — Selfishness of William the Conqueror. — Boundaries of County. — Size. — Chief Rivers. — Ancient Inhabitants. — Conquest by Romans. — Diversity of Scenery. — Improved System of Cultivation. — Mineral Produce. — City of Winchester. — Great Antiquity. — Early Importance. — Ancient Seat of Learning. — Alfred the Great. — Ignorance of Clergy. — Superior Rank of Bishop. — Cathedral. — Amusing Anecdote. — Gospel Oak. — William of Wykeham. — Hospital of St. Cross. — Historical Recollections. — Decline in Importance. — Portsmouth. — Portsea. — Dockyard. — Historical Recollections. — Gosport. — Haslar Hospital. — Southampton. — Canute the Great. — Dr. Isaac Watts. — Netley Abbey. — Beaulieu Abbey. — Privilege of Sanctuary. — Perkin Warbeck. — Cities of Refuge. — Margaret of Anjou. — Silchester. — Basingstoke and other Towns. — Isle of Wight. — Size. — Solent Sea. — Independent Lords of Wight. — Magnificent Scenery. — Newport. — Carisbrook Castle. — Charles the First. — Colonel Hammond. — Disappointment of Charles. — His Captivity at Carisbrook. — Ineffectual Attempts to Escape. — Removal to Hurst Castle. — Carisbrook Castle the Prison-Home of his youngest Children. — Death of Princess Elizabeth. — Ryde. — Magnificent Scenery. — Shanklin Chine. — Black-Gang and other celebrated Chines. — The Undercliff. — Ventnor. — The Needles. — Scratchell's Bay. — West Cowes. — East Cowes. — Osborne House. — Contrast between the Condition of Queen Victoria and that of Charles the First. — Condition of People equally Improved. — Causes to which the happy Change may be ascribed.

“I SUPPOSE we shall only cease to meet with instances of the tyranny and rapacity of William the Conqueror, when we have concluded our investigation of England,” said Marion Leslie to her mother, as they were preparing for their intended conversation

on Hampshire. "The New Forest, an extensive district in the south-western part of Hampshire, was either entirely made or greatly enlarged by him, for the purpose of indulging in his favourite pursuit of hunting; and so utterly regardless was he of anything but his own gratification, that in making that vast forest he actually destroyed thirty-six churches, and nearly as many villages, driving out the poor inhabitants to find shelter where and how they could!"

MRS. LESLIE.

It has been thought that William in afforesting so large a tract of land was probably influenced by another motive, beside that derived from the prospect of indulging in the pleasures of the chase. His possession of the English throne was very insecure, and a rebellion of his newly-conquered English subjects by no means improbable; in which case, that depopulated district, which lay opposite to Normandy, might have proved a safer route for fresh supplies of Norman soldiers, than if it had been inhabited by bands of sturdy foresters, who would have combined to oppose their progress. However this might have been, nothing could palliate the cruelty and selfishness of the act. But we had better proceed in our usual order, and at once ascertain the boundaries and size of Hampshire.

KATE.

Hampshire is a southern maritime county, bounded on the north by Berkshire, on the east by Surrey and Sussex, on the south by the English Channel, and on the west by Dorsetshire and Wiltshire. The Isle of Wight belongs to this county, and is separated from it by a strait called the Solent Sea, or the West Channel, and Spithead. The greatest length of the mainland of Hampshire is about forty-six miles, and its greatest breadth about forty-one miles.

WILLIE.

The chief rivers of Hampshire are the Itchen, the Avon, the Anton, and the Exe.

HERBERT.

Before the invasion of the Romans this county is thought to have been inhabited by three distinct tribes: the Regni, who pos-

essed the lands bordering on the coast; the Belgæ, a people of Germany, who were settled in the middle part; and the Atrebatii, who dwelt in the northern district contiguous to Berkshire. It appears to have been conquered by Vespasian, during the time he served as an officer under Claudius, and was the first part of Britain that became subject to the Roman power. This district was subsequently included in the Roman province of Britannia Prima, and during the period of the Saxon heptarchy formed part of the kingdom of Wessex.

MARION.

What a great diversity of scenery there is in Hampshire! Some parts of the county are very hilly, in others extensive plains prevail. Wild uncultivated heaths are interspersed with spots of luxuriant vegetation, and the bold grandeur of its coasts presents a beautiful contrast to the quiet rural beauty of the inland districts.

MRS. LESLIE.

The soil of a great portion of this county is naturally poor and unproductive, many parts having formerly been considered scarcely worth the labour of cultivation. The improved system of tillage which has been adopted of late years has, however, been attended with the most satisfactory results; so that Hampshire, although not ranking along with the most highly cultivated counties of England, may yet boast of what has been accomplished by the combination of industry and science. This county has long been noted for the superiority of its hams and bacon.

HERBERT.

I suppose we must rank Hampshire among the iron-producing counties of England, but it only yields annually about 13,000 tons of iron ore.

KATE.

We had better notice the mainland of Hampshire before the Isle of Wight, had we not, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Certainly, my dear, and Willie may now tell us the capital of the county.

WILLIE.

The city of Winchester, on the river Itchen.

KATE.

The antiquity of Winchester is said to go back to a period long before the Roman invasion. Its ancient name was *Caer-Gwent*, or the White City, derived from its having been built upon a chalky soil. On the conquest of the Belgæ by the Romans it became one of their principal stations under the name *Venta*; and during the Saxon heptarchy retained its importance as the chief city of the kingdom of *Wessex*.

HERBERT.

On the union of the kingdoms of the heptarchy by Egbert king of *Wessex*, at the commencement of the 9th century, Winchester obtained the higher distinction of capital of all England, a dignity it retained until the reign of Edward the Confessor; and indeed for some time after the Norman conquest, Winchester was considered equal, if not superior, to London in importance.

MRS. LESLIE.

Winchester is distinguished as the most ancient seat of learning in the British dominions. The venerable college of *St. Mary's*, in which students are still prepared for Oxford, was built upon the site of a school to which the illustrious Alfred was sent at a very early age to be instructed by Swithen, prior of Winchester.

KATE.

The prior could not have taken much interest in the improvement of his royal pupil, for you know, mamma, when Alfred was twelve years old he was ignorant of the art of reading, until his step-mother Judith encouraged him and his brothers to learn, by the promise of giving a beautiful book of Saxon poetry to the one who was able to read it first.

MRS. LESLIE.

True, Katie. The clergy of that period, although the sole possessors of the learning of the times, were for the most part themselves so ignorant as to be absolutely incapable of translating the

Latin services of the church, which they daily repeated by rote ; therefore it is not to be wondered at that their pupils did not make any rapid advancement in literature.

HERBERT.

The ecclesiastical importance of Winchester commenced with the building of a cathedral about the middle of the 7th century, and is still in some degree retained, as the bishops of Winchester always take precedence of every other bishop with the exception of those of London and Durham, who rank next to the two archbishops.

KATE.

Then which of the bishops stands next to the bishop of Winchester, mamma ?

MRS. LESLIE.

The bishops of London, Durham, and Winchester alone, have a permanent position assigned to them ; all the others rank according to the date of their respective consecrations.

MARION.

Winchester Cathedral is a massive pile of Norman architecture, exhibiting the successive changes in style from the 11th to the 16th century. The first cathedral was destroyed by the Danes, and was rebuilt by Bishop Ethelwold towards the end of the 10th century, and restored and greatly enlarged soon after the Norman Conquest by Walkelin, cousin and chaplain to the Conqueror.

MRS. LESLIE.

I remember an amusing anecdote relating to the rebuilding of Winchester Cathedral by Bishop Walkelin. Soon after his appointment to the see, he commenced the work of restoration, and being greatly at a loss for timber, applied to William to grant him some assistance. The Conqueror without reflection gave him leave to take as much timber from his wood of Hampage in the neighbourhood as he could cut down and carry away in three days. The bishop, determined to make the most of his grant, employed all the woodmen of the country to assist in the work of destruction ; they felled, and felled, until they had cut down every tree in

the forest with the exception of one called the "Gospel Oak," which was spared at the intercession of the prior and monks of a neighbouring monastery, on account of the gospel having been preached under it in the early days of Christianity. A short time after, the king happening to ride that way was astonished at the naked appearance of the landscape, and exclaimed to his attendants, "Have I lost my senses? Certainly I thought I had a wood here adjoining to Winchester." On being informed of the wholesale destruction of his cousin Walkelin he was greatly exasperated, and it was with much difficulty he was prevailed upon to pardon the zealous and quick-witted bishop.

KATE.

I wonder what became of that solitary oak that was so strangely left alone in its glory?

MRS. LESLIE.

Its venerable trunk is still standing. The wide-spreading branches under which the pagan Saxons first listened to the blessed truths of Christianity have long been severed from their parent stem,—the last small branch shed its latest leaves a few years back, and even the huge trunk has had to be girded with an iron belt in order to preserve it—yet it still stands, an interesting monument of the reverential piety of our forefathers.

HERBERT.

William of Wykeham effected some great improvements in Winchester Cathedral towards the close of the 14th century. The west front, the most beautiful part of the building, was erected by him, and his canopied statue adorns the summit.

WILLIE.

Was William of Wykeham a great architect, like Sir Christopher Wren?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, Willie; and he was also a distinguished bishop of Winchester. In former times, you know, the clergy were the principal architects; all our cathedrals, and many of our ancient castles, were built under their superintendence: William of Wykeham owed his rise in the

world principally to his talents for architecture. His parents moved in an humble sphere of life, and there is no reason to suppose that their son was originally intended for the church, but the lord of the manor having formed a high opinion of his abilities sent him to Oxford, after he had acquired his early education at the great grammar-school of this city. After Wykeham left college he received the appointment of secretary to the bishop of Winchester, in which capacity his talents for architecture attracted the notice of Edward the Third, who employed him to superintend the works then going on at Dover, Queenborough, and Windsor castles. He soon after received several clerical appointments, and was created bishop of Winchester in the year 1366.

HERBERT.

Winchester contains some noble monuments of this distinguished prelate. In addition to the vast improvements he made to the cathedral, he restored and endowed St. Mary's College; and the Hospital of St. Cross, a kind of alms-house for decayed gentlemen, which was founded soon after the Conquest by Bishop de Blois, was re-established by Wykeham, after it had become impoverished by the carelessness and prodigality of former masters.

KATE.

This city suffered severely in the wars of Stephen and the empress Maude, when half its buildings were destroyed. It also shared in the calamities of the times of Charles the First, during which the castle and several churches were demolished.

WILLIE.

Of course Winchester cannot compare with London in size and importance now, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

No, my dear; its population is only about 14,000, and its trade is very inconsiderable. It is chiefly interesting on account of its great antiquity.

HERBERT.

The great naval station of Portsmouth is the most important town in Hampshire. It is situated opposite to the Isle of Wight,

from which it is separated by the celebrated roadstead called Spithead, the central post of our national navy. The town of Portsmouth derives its name from its situation at the mouth, or entrance, of a beautiful and commodious harbour. It appears to have risen upon the decay of ancient Portchester, a maritime post of the Romans at the north of the harbour, which was abandoned some centuries ago, in consequence of the gradual retreat of the sea rendering it ill-adapted for the purposes of commerce; Portsmouth includes the adjoining modern town of Portsea, which has far outstripped the ancient town in size and respectability, and possesses the finest naval dockyard in the world.

WILLIE.

Is Portsmouth at all celebrated in history, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

It was the scene of some naval battles between the Danes and Alfred the Great; it participated in the general calamities of the times of Stephen and Charles the First, and some severe engagements took place between the English and French in the reign of Henry the Third, after which more attention was paid to its fortifications. The coast is now defended by a complete line of batteries.

HERBERT.

I was going to observe that Portsmouth is distinguished as a flourishing commercial port, carrying on an extensive foreign trade. Its population is above 72,000.

KATE.

Gosport is a handsome sea-port town on the western side of Portsmouth harbour. In the time of Henry the Eighth, it was only a small fishing village. Its population in 1851 was upwards of 7000. A royal hospital, called the Haslar Hospital, for the reception of sick and wounded seamen, was built about the middle of the last century.

MABION.

Southampton is an important town, uniting the advantages of a flourishing commercial port and a fashionable sea-bathing place.

It is situated upon a peninsula to the north of Southampton Water, an arm of the sea which extends seven miles inland. The town contains a population of 35,000, and carries on an extensive trade with the Channel Isles and several countries of the Continent.

WILLIE.

It was at Southampton, you know, mamma, that Canute the Great ordered his chair to be put upon the sea-shore, and commanded the sea to retire, and not presume to wet its sovereign's feet.

MRS. LESLIE.

Of course you remember the reason of Canute's giving such a strange and, apparently, presumptuous command?

WILLIE.

Oh! yes, mamma. It was to reprove the flattery of his courtiers, who wanted to make him believe that he was so powerful that all things would obey his will. Of course the waves did not pay the least attention to what he said, but kept rising higher and higher, until they came quite up to him; he then stepped back, and told his flatterers, that the titles they bestowed on him ought only to be given to the Great God, whom both earth and seas were ready to obey.

KATE.

One can hardly imagine this to be the same person who was a proud and cruel pagan only a few years before. I remember he was so disgusted with the flattery of his courtiers on the occasion Willie has mentioned, that he would never wear a crown afterwards.

WILLIE.

I have another recollection of Southampton, mamma, may I tell you what it is?

MRS. LESLIE.

Certainly, my dear.

WILLIE.

Dr. Isaac Watts was born there, and received his first education at the grammar-school of that town. You know, mamma, I can

never forget Dr. Watts, because his "Divine and Moral Songs" were the very first things I ever learnt.

MRS. LESLIE.

I am glad to find you retain a grateful recollection of the pleasure you experienced when your infant lips first learned the language of praise to God, in the words of those beautiful and simple hymns. I trust, my dear child, that the instruction thus imparted may never be forgotten.

MARION.

The picturesque ruins of Netley Abbey are in the vicinity of Southampton, and though they now merely consist of broken ivy-mantled walls, are greatly admired for their romantic beauty.

HERBERT.

The ruins of Beaulieu Abbey, which are situated in a beautiful valley seven miles from Southampton, have also considerable attraction for tourists. Beaulieu Abbey formerly possessed the privilege of sanctuary, and afforded shelter to Perkin Warbeck after the failure of his attempts to gain the crown of England.

MARION.

I thought every abbey and consecrated place was a sanctuary in popish times.

MRS. LESLIE.

It was in a limited degree; but that general protection which was afforded to criminals by every sacred edifice, extended only to a restricted period, after which, in cases of felony, the offender was compelled either to deliver himself up to justice, or to take an oath of abjuration, by which all his property was confiscated, and he was compelled to leave the kingdom. Some abbeys, however, had a peculiar privilege of sanctuary granted them by royal charter, by which they became permanent places of refuge even for such criminals as had been guilty of high treason, and who were permitted to remain unmolested for life.

KATE.

Then how came Perkin Warbeck to be executed at Tyburn after he had gained the protection of Beaulieu Abbey?

o o

MRS. LESLIE.

He was enticed to leave the sanctuary by a promise from Henry the Seventh to spare his life. This promise was violated, and after a degrading procession through the streets of London, which he bore with calm dignity, Warbeck paid the penalty of his rebellion by an ignominious death.

MARION.

This singular privilege of sanctuary puts me in mind of the cities of refuge appointed by Moses for the Jews.

MRS. LESLIE.

There is some similarity between the cases, but yet they are by no means parallel. The cities of refuge under the Jewish dispensation were provided for the man-slayer who chanced to kill his neighbour unawares, without having any enmity against him in his heart; while, on the contrary, he who out of malice and enmity slew his fellow-man, was to be delivered up to the avenger of blood, and surely put to death.

MARION.

Oh! I see, mamma; the similarity does not hold good, because the Romish Church granted the privilege of sanctuary to every offender, whether his crime were premeditated or not.

WILLIE.

Why, that seems like encouraging people to do wrong!

MRS. LESLIE.

And in many instances it had that effect. But we must remember that the benefit of sanctuary was not only intended for the criminal, but also for the unfortunate. Margaret of Anjou and her son Prince Edward sought protection in Beaulieu Abbey, when they landed in England, at the time of the decisive battle of Barnet. The abuse of the privilege was put an end to at the Reformation, and the custom altogether abolished in the reign of James the First.

HERBERT.

The little village of Silchester, on the border of Berkshire, is

one of the most interesting places in the county to an archæologist, from the undoubted evidence it possesses of its having been a Roman station. The remains are said to be among the most perfect of any in the kingdom.

KATE.

Lymington is a pleasant town of Hampshire, on the eastern division of the New Forest. It is much frequented for sea-bathing, and contains a population of above 5000.

MARION.

Basingstoke, a large and ancient town of Hampshire, with a population of more than 4000, has long been the seat of an extensive trade in timber, corn, coals, flour, and other commodities, but within the last few years has greatly risen in importance from its connection with the Great Western Railway, from which it has a branch. The remains of an ancient British encampment exist near to the town, and also an interesting ruin of a chapel of the architecture of the time of Henry the Eighth.

MRS. LESLIE.

Christchurch and Andover are ancient towns of Hampshire, but as their records are not very interesting, we may as well revisit the coast, and at once pass over to the Isle of Wight.

HERBERT.

The Isle of Wight, the largest island in the British Channel, measures about twenty-four miles from east to west, and thirteen miles from north to south. The Solent Sea, which separates it from the mainland of Hampshire, varies in breadth from one to five miles. Geologists are of opinion that at some unknown period, this island formed part of the mainland of the opposite coast, and that the separation was caused by the gradual action of water upon the shores.

MRS. LESLIE.

If such a separation ever took place, it must have been before the conquest of Britain by the Romans, as they distinctly speak of it as an island under the name of Vecta or Vectis. By the ancient Britons it was called Guith, which is said to signify a separation,

and if correct, certainly gives weight to the opinion of its having once formed part of the mainland of the country.

HERBERT.

It is rather remarkable that this island does not possess any remains of Roman fortifications, which is only accounted for by the supposition that the ancient inhabitants could not have offered any resistance to the Roman invasion, and that their numbers were too small to excite any apprehensions in the minds of the conquerors. On the coming of the Saxons the island was the frequent scene of war and bloodshed, and at the Norman Conquest was entirely subdued and given to William Fitz-Osborne, who was created by the Conqueror first Lord of Wight. For more than two centuries the island was governed by its own lords, who exercised all the authority of independent sovereigns.

MRS. LESLIE.

This lovely island, which has been poetically styled the "Gem of the Ocean," is said to contain within its narrow limits all the most picturesque features of Great Britain. The views around the coast present a continual succession of sublime and magnificent scenery. Towering precipices, yawning chasms, and projecting rocks, convey an idea of majestic and awful grandeur, while the picturesque beauties of the rural landscape combine to form that charming variety which everywhere prevails. But we will notice the peculiar attractions of each locality in proper order, and Katie may first mention the capital of this beautiful isle.

KATE.

Newport, which is situated nearly in the centre of the island, on the river Medina. This town, though not possessing the attractions of those upon the coast, is generally admired for its neat and cheerful appearance. It has the largest settled trade of any place in the island, and contains a population of 8000.

MARION.

About a mile from Newport are the romantic ruins of Carisbrook Castle, formerly the seat of government of the feudal Lords

of Wight. The keep, the original Saxon fortress, is generally supposed to have been erected in the sixth century, and greatly enlarged after the Conquest by William Fitz-Osborne, who resided there, and kept the vanquished islanders in a state of awe and subjection.

WILLIE.

Carisbrook Castle was one of the places in which Charles the First was confined, was it not, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, my dear. Its principal historical interest is derived from that unhappy monarch and his family.

KATE.

If I remember right, Charles's imprisonment at Carisbrook was owing to his own incautiousness in seeking an asylum there, under the false impression that the governor would be his friend.

MRS. LESLIE.

It was. Having been informed that the parliament entertained designs against his life, Charles fled from Hampton Court on the 5th of November, 1647, attended only by two confidential servants, with the intention of escaping to the continent. Instead, however, of carrying out his hurried plan, he sought refuge at the seat of the Earl of Southampton at Tichfield, on the border of the New Forest; from whence he sent a message to Colonel Hammond, the governor of the Isle of Wight, begging his protection. This he expected would be readily granted, as the Colonel was the nephew of his own chaplain, Dr. Henry Hammond. But so far from being the friend and partisan he had expected, the Colonel was devoted to the cause of the parliament, and of course was very glad to get the king into his power.

WILLIE.

Poor Charles! What a disappointment that must have been! But, pray mamma, tell us how Colonel Hammond treated him.

MRS. LESLIE.

At first, the royal prisoner received every token of respect, and

was treated more as a guest than a captive, and although his movements were carefully watched, he was allowed to leave the castle, and ride or walk in the neighbourhood as he pleased. The first intimation the king received of his true position was the dismissal of his attendants; after which he was soon informed that he must consider himself a prisoner, and that in future his walks must be confined to the limits of the castle.

KATE.

I dare say Colonel Hammond's former kindness to the king was only to put him off his guard. I have not much faith in those parliamentarians!

MRS. LESLIE.

You should not give way to prejudice, my dear. Had the colonel been so disposed, he could certainly have placed the king under a strong guard on his first arrival at the castle, without having to resort to any deception whatever; we have, moreover, evidence that his former kindness was sincere, in the fact that he continued to show much sympathy for his royal prisoner during the whole of his captivity at Carisbrook, and by many little indulgences contrived to ameliorate his unhappy fate.

WILLIE.

Do you remember any instances of the colonel's kindness, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

He converted a portion of the castle-yard into a bowling-green, on purpose for the king to indulge in his favourite amusement of playing at bowls; and he also built a summer-house for him which commanded a view of the sea. The king also had liberty to walk on the ramparts of the castle, so that his confinement was rendered as little irksome as possible.

KATE.

Come! I begin to like Colonel Hammond after all!

MRS. LESLIE.

Notwithstanding the lenity of the governor, the unhappy king bitterly lamented his captivity, and made several ineffectual

attempts to escape. A grated window is still shown in the castle through the bars of which he tried to force his body, but the aperture not being sufficiently wide to enable him to do so, he managed, some time after, to procure a file, with which he destroyed one of the bars, and was just about to get through the opening, when he observed some persons on the watch below, and immediately gave up the attempt. At length, after repeated failures, the hope which had so long sustained him seemed to give way; he neglected his person, and even ceased to take much interest in his books, the former dearly-prized companions of his solitude. After ten months spent in the seclusion of Carisbrook Castle, Charles was allowed to remove to Newport, to meet the commissioners appointed by parliament to propose certain conditions for his acceptance. This conference, however, was abruptly broken up by Cromwell, and the king seized by a band of soldiers, and conveyed to Hurst Castle, a dreary fortress on the coast of Hampshire, from whence he was only removed to undergo his trial and execution.

MARION.

After the death of the king Carisbrook Castle became the prison-home of his two youngest children, Henry, Duke of Gloucester, and the Princess Elizabeth, who were confined there by order of the parliament. They were kindly treated, although compelled to relinquish all the distinctions due to their station. They were allowed to walk abroad under the care of their attendants, but "no person was permitted to kiss their hands," and the duke was only allowed to be called "Master Harry." A year and seven months after the execution of her father, the Princess Elizabeth died of a broken heart, in the sixteenth year of her age, and two years later, the Duke of Gloucester, who was then scarcely eleven years old, was sent to his mother, in France, by the order of Cromwell.

WILLIE.

It was the little duke of Gloucester who said he would be torn in pieces before he would be made a king, was it not, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

It was, my dear ; and there is a consolation in knowing that the poor child escaped the evils he seemed so much to dread by an early death.

KATE.

Carisbrook is a large place to be called a village. It contains nearly 7000 inhabitants.

MRS. LESLIE.

It was the capital of the island, under the independent lords of Wight, and is now so closely connected with Newport, that it may almost be said to belong to that town.

HERBERT.

Ryde is the next place to Newport, in importance and population. It is situated on the coast, immediately opposite to Gosport, and though now one of the most fashionable and attractive towns in the island, was, considerably less than half a century ago, a mean, straggling, fishing village. Its population is above 7000. The views in the neighbourhood of Ryde are of surpassing and varied beauty, and embrace the Solent Sea, Spithead, the towns of Gosport and Portsmouth, Southsea Castle, and the distant spire of Chichester Cathedral.

MRS. LESLIE.

The back part of the island, as it is called, that is, the southern half, possesses the grandest and boldest scenery. The romantic chines, stupendous rocks, magnificent arches, and picturesque bays are in this region, as well as the extraordinary Undercliff, which for singularity and natural beauty, I suppose, can scarcely be equalled by anything in the world.

WILLIE.

What *can* you mean by romantic chines, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

The term, in the sense in which I used it, I believe, is peculiar to the southern coast of England, and is applied to chasms, or rents in the cliffs, from a fancied resemblance to that part of the

back-bone of an animal which is called a chine. Shanklin Chine is considered the most beautiful of any along the coast of the island. The cliff, which is 230 feet high, appears as if it had been rent in twain from top to bottom. The chasm is very wide, and luxuriantly covered with the finest verdure, and shadowed by graceful trees; while here and there, masses of projecting rock add to the romantic beauty of the scene. Black-gang Chine is another celebrated chasm, which possesses scarcely less attraction than Shanklin, to those who delight to witness nature in all her aspects, although its features are of a totally different character. The rocks, which in some places are nearly 500 feet high, are in colour almost black, and scarcely a trace of vegetation appears to enliven their gloomy aspect. Altogether it presents a scene of solemn and terrific grandeur. Many other chines of inferior size appear along the coast, the most celebrated of which are Luccombe, Walpan, Grange, Chiltern, and Brooke.

WILLIE.

And what is the Undercliff, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

A beautiful natural terrace, six miles long, formed of detached masses of rock, which at different periods have fallen from the upper cliffs. Its name denotes its situation, Under-the-cliff. This is by far the most interesting and remarkable part of the island; but it is vain to attempt a description of its varied beauties. I hope before long you will have an opportunity to see and admire them yourself.

MARION.

The elegant town of Ventnor is situated on the Undercliff, and has risen up within the present century. Before that time the seclusion of Ventnor Cove was unbroken, except by a few fishermen's huts, and a picturesque water-mill, standing nearly on the brow of the cliff, and turned by a stream that gushed among the rocks, and descended on the beach. It is now a favourite resort of visitors, particularly invalids, who are attracted by the mildness and salubrity of its air, as well as by its lovely situation.

WILLIE.

I have heard of the "Needles" at the Isle of Wight. They are large rocks, are they not, mamma ?

MRS. LESLIE.

They are detached rocks, of immense magnitude, which seem as if they were rising out of the sea just beyond the western extremity of the island. In form they bear no resemblance whatever to their name, which was chiefly derived from one much taller than the rest, that fell suddenly down in the year 1764, with so tremendous a crash, that the shock was felt all over the south-western part of the island. These formidable rocks are very dangerous to mariners, and some terrible shipwrecks have occurred by vessels striking against them.

HERBERT.

Scratchell's Bay is in the immediate vicinity of the "Needles," and is one of the most magnificent scenes on the coast. Towering precipices rise to the height of 600 feet, their chalky whiteness being beautifully varied by parallel lines of black flint. But the grandest object of all is an immense cave in the cliff, the outline of which forms a stupendous arch between two and three hundred feet in height.

MRS. LESLIE.

We might linger long in this locality, and attempt to describe the rainbow-coloured cliffs of Alum Bay, the isolated rocks of Freshwater Bay, the peculiar formation of the Wedge Rock, and many other objects of interest ; but all that could be said would fail to convey any adequate idea of the grandeur of the scenery around the western promontory. Therefore we will again turn our attention northward, and give a passing glance at the beautiful maritime towns of East and West Cowes.

HERBERT.

These towns are divided by the river Medina, which here flows into the sea, and are situated exactly opposite to Southampton Water. West Cowes, which is by far the larger and more populous

town, was formerly a small maritime port. It possesses a fine harbour, generally covered with shipping, and is surrounded by gentlemen's seats and elegant villas. The lower part of the town is irregularly built, and the streets are narrow and confined, which cause a feeling of disappointment to the visitor on first landing. The unfavourable impression is, however, soon removed, as he proceeds along the Parade and West Cliff.

MARION.

If West Cowes is the more important town, I am sure East Cowes possesses the greater degree of interest, because it is the favourite retreat of our beloved queen. Osborne House, the marine residence of her Majesty, is an elegant and spacious building embosomed in trees, and is situated on a delightful eminence sloping down to the sea, and commanding extensive and beautiful prospects of the Solent Sea and the opposite coast of Hampshire.

WILLIE.

How glad I am that our queen, when she visits the Isle of Wight, can go when she likes, and return when she likes, instead of being shut up in that old gloomy Carisbrook Castle, like poor Charles the First.

KATE.

And so am I; and that the princes and princesses are allowed to be called by their proper titles. If that little Duke of Gloucester we have been speaking of, were alive now, perhaps he would not think it such a dreadful thing to be made a king!

MRS. LESLIE.

The state of the times is now happily very different from that of the period in which he lived, both as regards the security of the sovereign, and the welfare of the people. Our beloved queen, when "weary with the pomp of state," can retire to this delightful isle, where, blessed with the society of her excellent consort and royal children, she may enjoy the quiet privacy of domestic life, confident that when it pleases her to return to the metropolis all hearts will bid her welcome. Charles the First, on the contrary, when a resident on the self-same isle, was bereft of consort and

children; no sweet companionship cheered his solitude, no loving arm supported his "grey and discrowned head," and when he left the seclusion of Carisbrook, it was but to exchange it for a far more dreary fortress. But if the condition of the sovereign of England is more happy now, than it was in those disastrous times, the circumstances of the people are equally improved. The power of the crown is fixed and definite, and is not sought to be increased by any of those arbitrary measures which caused the downfall of Charles, and plunged the country into all the calamities of civil war. Our rights are recognised and respected, our parliament is honoured, and our welfare sought. The scriptures of truth declare that "the throne is established by righteousness," and I believe that the secure position of our queen, and the hold she has maintained on the affections of her people, is to be attributed chiefly to her just and righteous government; while on the other hand, I regard the almost universal obedience to the apostolic command "Honour the King," as one of the principal causes of our civil peace and prosperity. Our next county will be Berkshire, on which, I trust, you will all endeavour to obtain much useful information.

CONVERSATION XXXV.

BERKSHIRE.

SUBJECTS:—Size of County.—Boundaries.—Ancient Inhabitants.—Celebrated Battles.—White Horse Hill.—“Scouring the Horse.”—Fertility of Vale of White Horse.—Ancient and Present industrial Resources.—Chief Rivers.—Reading.—Historical Recollections.—Ruins of Ancient Abbey.—Archbishop Land.—English Liturgy in Scottish Churches.—Ancient and present Importance of Reading.—Windsor.—Windsor Castle.—Royal Forest.—Improvements made to the Castle by Edward the Third.—Impressed Workmen.—Windsor Castle abandoned as a Royal Residence.—Reconstructed by George the Fourth.—St. George’s Chapel.—Historical Associations of Windsor Castle.—James the First of Scotland.—Lady Jane Beaufort.—Virginia Water.—Victoria and Albert Bridges.—Town of Windsor.—Abingdon.—Ancient Name and State.—Celebrated Abbey.—Henry the First.—Civil Wars of Charles the First.—Newbury.—Lord Falkland.—Hungerford.—Maidenhead.—Faringdon.—Wallingford.—Ancient Castle.—Submission of Stigand and Saxon Nobles to William the Conqueror.—Meeting of Empress Maude and her son Prince Henry.—Ancient Importance of Wallingford.—Present State.—Wantage.—Alfred the Great.—Visit to Rome.—Consecration by the Pope.—Present State of Wantage.

“THIS is the most curiously-shaped county we have met with,” observed Willie, as he opened his atlas, and pointed to the map of Berkshire. “Just look, mamma, how wide it is in some parts, and how narrow in others. I never saw such an odd-looking county.”

MRS. LESLIE.

As you observe, Willie, Berkshire is very irregular in form, and varies greatly in length and breadth at different parts. Its greatest length from east to west is about forty-eight miles, while towards the northern extremity it scarcely measures two miles

from east to west. The extreme breadth of the county is about thirty miles, but in the neighbourhood of Reading it is not more than six miles broad, and its breadth is still considerably less at the eastern corner. Now, Katie, let us hear if you can tell us how this oddly-shaped county is bounded ?

KATE.

Berkshire is bounded on the north and east by the Thames, which separates it from Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire ; on the south-east by Surrey ; on the south by Hampshire ; and on the west by Wiltshire.

HERBERT.

At the time of the Roman invasion this county was inhabited by the Atrebatii, a people from Gaul of Belgic origin, as well as by two inferior tribes, who submitted to Cæsar when he advanced into the county in pursuit of Cassivelaunus. On the subjugation of the Atrebatii this district was included in the Roman province of Britannia Prima, and, during the Saxon heptarchy, it formed part of the kingdom of Wessex.

MARION.

Berkshire appears to have been the scene of frequent battles between the Saxons and the Danes. The celebrated White Horse, which is cut on a hill on the border of Wiltshire is said to be a memorial of a celebrated victory gained over the Danes by Ethelred and his brother Alfred.

WILLIE.

Does Marion mean that white hill that you showed me, when we were visiting in Wiltshire, mamma ?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, my dear. That fine chalk hill which looks so bright and glittering in the sunshine, is supposed to represent the rude figure of a horse, 374 feet long, said to have been carved out of the turf by the Saxons, to commemorate the famous battle of *Æscesdun*, or *Ash-tree-hill*, in which the Danes were defeated with great slaughter. The precise spot where the battle occurred is much disputed ; the situation of the white horse, it is supposed, being

rather chosen from its elevated and conspicuous position than from its having been the exact site of the engagement. On a clear day this remarkable object may be seen at a distance of several miles.

MARION.

I have seen it many times and admired its singular whiteness, but I could never see much resemblance in its form to that of a horse.

MRS. LESLIE.

The encroachments of the surrounding turf have destroyed the beauty of the outline, and made it difficult to recognise the animal it is intended to represent, and which gives name to the hill, as well as to the vale beneath. In ancient times the inhabitants of the surrounding villages used to assemble annually about Midsummer, and proceed to the spot to clear away the turf, and keep the figure to its proper shape and colour. This was termed "scouring the horse," and was always followed by a rural festival, when the villagers were regaled by the lord of the manor, who presided over the festivities. The last occasion on which this ancient custom was observed, was in the year 1780.

HERBERT.

The Vale of White Horse is celebrated for its great fertility. The western part is covered with some of the richest pasture lands in England, and the arable land is also of superior quality, and with a very moderate degree of cultivation, produces abundant crops of corn.

KATE.

Berkshire is entirely an agricultural county, is it not, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, my dear, in the present day, but formerly it had extensive manufactures of woollen cloth. You may tell us by what rivers this county is watered.

KATE.

The Thames is the principal river, and although it does not in any part flow into the county, it forms a beautiful northern bound-

dary. The Kennet, the Loddon, and the Ock, are also rivers of Berkshire.

WILLIE.

Reading is the county town, mamma, on the River Kennet.

MRS. LESLIE.

This rising town is situated on the Kennet, about a mile and a half from its confluence with the Thames. The first notice we have of this town relates to the year 871, when it was in the possession of the Danes, who were expelled by Ethelred and his brother Alfred. The early prosperity of Reading appears to have been derived from a nunnery, founded by Queen Elfrida, as an atonement for the murder of her son-in-law, Edward, surnamed the Martyr. In 1006, the marauding Danes again returned, destroyed the nunnery and burnt the town. It must, however, soon after have been rebuilt, as it is spoken of as a place of some note at the time of the Conquest. In the reign of Henry the First, a splendid abbey for Benedictine monks was established, which continued until the suppression of monastic houses at the Reformation. Some extensive and picturesque ruins still exist.

HERBERT.

I read yesterday that the last abbot, Hugh Faringdon, and two of his monks, refused to surrender the abbey at the king's command, for which they were condemned for high treason, hanged, drawn, and quartered, at Reading, in November 1539.

MRS. LESLIE.

What an idea such a revolting punishment conveys of the brutality of the age in which it was inflicted!

MARION.

But few historical events of interest appear to have taken place at Reading. Like most other English towns, it participated in the calamities caused by the contest of Stephen and the empress Maude, and also in the wars of Charles the First and his parliament, but the details are so similar to those which we have noticed over and over again, that it is not very entertaining to relate them.

KATE.

Oh! pray pass them by! For my part I am quite tired of hearing of castles being held first for one party and then for the other, and ultimately compelled to surrender to the parliament.

MRS. LESLIE.

And such, with very little variety, was the history of every siege in the disastrous times of Charles the First. We may here mention incidentally, that Reading was the birth-place of one whose inordinate zeal for episcopacy, and consequent ill-advice to the king, contributed in no slight degree to the adoption of some of those arbitrary measures which rendered Charles so obnoxious to his people. Do you know to whom I allude, Herbert?

HERBERT.

Of course it must be to Archbishop Laud, mamma; but I was not aware that he was a native of Reading.

MRS. LESLIE.

His father was a clothier of that town, and he was born there in 1573. After receiving his early education at the free school of his native place, he went to St. John's College, Oxford, where he obtained a fellowship. His first preferment, after entering into holy orders, was to the living of Stamford in Northamptonshire, from whence he continued to rise until he was promoted to the archbishopric of Canterbury.

KATE.

But what was the ill-advice he gave the king?

MRS. LESLIE.

Being zealously attached to the established religion of the country, and possessing extravagant notions of the power of the clergy, he prevailed on Charles to insist on the use of the English liturgy in the Scottish Churches. The Prayer Book was commanded to be used, the surplice to be worn, — innovations on the simple Presbyterian form of worship which the Scots were determined to resist, and after several disgraceful riots in the kirks, the people took up arms from one end of the country to the other, resolved to die rather than give up their religious independence.

MARION.

What a pity Charles had such a bad adviser! His own notions of the royal prerogative were exalted enough, without needing any encouragement.

KATE.

You spoke of Reading as a rising town, mamma; in one respect it is a declining one, for it was formerly extensively engaged in the woollen manufacture, which is now quite done away.

MRS. LESLIE.

Although this town does not now possess the manufacturing importance which was attached to it two or three hundred years ago, it has greatly increased in size and prosperity during the last half-century. Its situation on one of the best regulated railways in the kingdom, by which it is brought within easy access to the metropolis, has given an impetus to its trade which much more than compensates for its manufacturing decay; while the vast improvement in the general appearance of the town, caused by the erection of new streets and squares, has made it a desirable place of residence for persons of independent fortune. An extensive trade is carried on in corn, malt, timber, wool, cheese, and ale. The well-known Reading biscuits, manufactured by Messrs. Huntly and Palmer, have attained a wide celebrity. The population of Reading is nearly 22,000.

MARION.

The delightful town of Windsor, anciently called Wyndleshire, from the winding course of the Thames which flows past it, is the next place for us to notice. It is surrounded by magnificent scenery, which has been described by Gray, in the well-known lines,

“From the stately brow
Of Windsor's heights th' expanse below
Of grove, of lawn, of mead survey;
Whose turf, whose shade, whose flowers among,
Wanders the hoary Thames along
His silver winding way.”

WILLIE.

I suppose, mamma, that Windsor owes its importance principally to its royal castle?

MRS. LESLIE.

It does, and it is thought probably its origin also. The Saxon kings had a palace or castle at a village about a mile and a half distant, where Edward the Confessor occasionally kept his court. The present magnificent structure, the noblest residence of the sovereign of England, is situated on a beautiful hill, commanding the most extensive prospects of the surrounding country, the varied scenery of no less than twelve counties opening to view from the summit of the keep. Very little is known respecting the original structure, but it is thought to have been built by William the Conqueror for the convenience of hunting, as he made the neighbouring forest a royal demesne, and enacted laws for the preservation of the game.

MARION.

William was determined not to be restricted in the pleasures of the chase, for Windsor Forest alone was formerly 120 miles in circumference, and not only included the south-eastern side of Berkshire, but considerable portions of Buckinghamshire and Surrey. The greater part is now built upon or enclosed, and comprehends the beautiful parks in the vicinity of the castle.

KATE.

It appears that Windsor Castle was entirely rebuilt and greatly enlarged by Henry the First, and in the reign of Stephen was considered as the second fortress in the kingdom, the Tower of London only being superior.

WILLIE.

Edward the Third also took an interest in the improvement of the castle, for you told us last week, mamma, that he engaged William of Wykeham to superintend the works he was having carried on there.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, the castle was Edward's birthplace, and in all probability a favourite residence; but it does not appear that he contemplated

any extensive alterations until the twenty-fourth year of his reign, when he determined to make vast and magnificent improvements; and, to carry out his plans as speedily as possible, he resorted to a measure that gives us a curious idea of the customs of feudal times.

WILLIE.

What did he do, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Instead of leaving the work in the hands of an architect, as an English monarch would now do, he issued commissions empowering certain officers to command the services of all the carpenters and masons in the country, at the wages he proposed, and to commit to prison all who might refuse to engage in the work. In one year 360 workmen were actually pressed into the king's service in that arbitrary way, and compelled to work for whatever he chose to give them.

KATE.

Why! the condition of the people must have been as bad then as in the days of John.

HERBERT.

At any rate the benefits of Magna Charta could not have extended to the mechanics of that period.

WILLIE.

But were any workmen really imprisoned for refusing to work for the king?

MRS. LESLIE.

Several were committed to Newgate for leaving their employment, and engaging with masters who would give them better wages; and proclamations were made forbidding, under severe penalties, any persons to employ such as might secretly leave their work at Windsor. These impressments were continued for about seventeen years, during which the royal apartments, St. George's Hall, the greater portion of the upper ward, and several other parts of the castle were erected.

HERBERT.

I wonder whether William of Wykeham was a pressed man, or a volunteer.

MRS. LESLIE.

There is no doubt he willingly engaged in the service of the king, as he hoped to make his way in the world by his fame as an architect, in which, as we have seen, he was not disappointed. The Winchester Tower in Windsor Castle is still named after him, and is one of the best-preserved portions of the fortress as it then existed. Several parts of the Upper Ward also exhibit traces of the architecture of that period.

HERBERT.

After all Edward's zeal and that of his successors in the extension and improvement of Windsor Castle, it is described as having been a very unsightly and inconvenient structure until the present century, having nothing but the beauty of its situation to recommend it as a royal residence, the very additions and supposed improvements that had been made to it from time to time having impaired its grandeur by the incongruities of their architecture.

MRS. LESLIE.

And yet it was a favourite residence of several of our sovereigns prior to the accession of the line of Hanover. With the growing taste of the times, however, Windsor Castle came into disrepute: the first two Georges abandoned it as a residence, and George the Third, although partial to the neighbourhood, did not for many years reside in the castle, but in a large plain building called the Queen's Lodge, which he had erected opposite to the south terrace for the accommodation of himself and family.

WILLIE.

Then when did Windsor Castle come into favour again, for I know it is now the frequent residence of our queen?

MRS. LESLIE.

In the year 1824 George the Fourth signified his intention of remodelling the castle, and converting it into a suitable residence for the sovereigns of England. 300,000*l.* was immediately granted by parliament for the projected alterations; a celebrated architect named Wyattville was engaged, and the former incommo-

incongruous pile of architecture was converted into one of the noblest and most majestic palatial castles in the world. I should tell you that, in addition to the sum first voted by parliament, other grants were afterwards made, so that the total sum expended on the castle, to the end of the reign of William the Fourth, amounted to 771,000*L.*, in addition to which a further grant of 70,000*L.* has been made for new stables during the present reign.

MARION.

You have not mentioned St. George's Chapel, mamma.

MRS. LESLIE.

That beautiful and stately Gothic structure was commenced by Richard Beauchamp, Bishop of Salisbury, by order of Edward the Fourth, but was not completed until the reign of Henry the Seventh, when the works were carried on under the superintendence of his prime minister, Sir Reginald Bray. The interior of the chapel was restored, though in some respects somewhat injudiciously, in the reign of George the Third. The choir is the most magnificent part of the chapel; but it is impossible to convey by description any idea of the exquisite proportions and richly ornamented architecture of this unrivalled edifice.

KATE.

Has Windsor Castle been much used as a prison, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

After the execution of Charles the First many of his faithful friends and followers were confined in the Norman Tower, among whom were the Earl of Norwich, Lord Capel, the Duke of Hamilton, and Sir Edward Fortescue. The Keep, or Round Tower, is also celebrated in history as the place of captivity of James the First of Scotland, who, when only ten years old, fell into the hands of the English, with whom the Scots were then at war, and was detained for eighteen years a prisoner in England.

WILLIE.

Poor little fellow! I hope he was kindly treated.

MRS. LESLIE.

I believe he was ; and that during his youth he was not kept in close confinement. His education was well attended to, and he was permitted to indulge in all the athletic amusements usual to his age and rank. As he grew up he became an accomplished scholar, a fine poet, and an excellent musician.

HERBERT.

If I remember right, his father, Robert the Third of Scotland, died about a year after James was brought to England from grief for his loss.

MRS. LESLIE.

He did ; by which the captive youth became King of Scotland, but during the period of his detention here the Duke of Albany acted as regent. As the young king advanced to manhood greater vigilance was necessary on the part of his English jailors ; and for some years he was kept a close prisoner in the Round Tower. During this period of his captivity he formed a romantic attachment to the beautiful grand-daughter of John of Gaunt, the Lady Jane Beaufort, whom he first beheld from the narrow grated window of his prison, as she was walking in the garden below. On gaining his liberty this lady became his wife ; and, after a short time spent in great festivity in Durham Palace, she accompanied him to Scotland to share his long lost throne.

KATE.

I am so glad he got his liberty at last ; but pray, mamma, tell us how it happened.

MRS. LESLIE.

On the death of the Duke of Albany, Henry the Sixth, who was then King of England, agreed to give up his royal captive on condition of the Scots paying 40,000*l.* for his ransom. This they agreed to do, and their rightful sovereign was then restored to the country and throne of his ancestors. I am sorry to add that the latter part of the life of this amiable and accomplished prince was as unfortunate as his early career. On reaching Scotland he found his kingdom in confusion, his nobles rebellious, and the laws of his

country openly defied ; and after a reign of fifteen years, during which he strove to the utmost to promote the welfare of his subjects, he was assassinated by a conspiracy of the nobility, his faithful and loving wife having vainly endeavoured to save his life at the risk of her own.

KATE.

That is a sad story, mamma. I think I shall never again see the great Round Tower of Windsor Castle without thinking of James the First of Scotland, and the beautiful Lady Jane Beaufort.

MRS. LESLIE.

We have alluded to the delightful scenery in the neighbourhood of Windsor, and I suppose there is none more picturesque than that surrounding Virginia Water, the largest artificial lake in the kingdom. The grounds extend for several miles, and embrace the most charming variety of woodland scenery. The magnificent sheet of water is bounded by verdant slopes, and shadowed by luxuriant trees, whose light and graceful foliage contrasts strikingly with the dark outline of the forest hills, while the Chinese temple, cascade, obelisk, and rustic bridges combine to enhance the beauty of the scene.

MARION.

I find that the town of Windsor was much improved in 1851 by the erection of two handsome bridges over the Thames on the road to the village of Datchet. They are situated about a mile and a half apart, are named the Victoria and Albert bridges, and are of uniform construction with the exception of some of the ornaments. The royal arms are displayed in the upper bridge, which is the one named after the Queen, and in the lower those of the Prince Consort.

KATE.

I suppose the trade of Windsor depends principally upon the support it derives from the castle ?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, and from its own requirements. The population is nearly 7000.

HERBERT.

The quiet market-town of Abingdon was a place of considerable note in the early history of our country. It was called Sheovesham by the early Saxons, and is spoken of in ancient records as a "famous city, goodly to behold, and full of riches."

MARION.

Abingdon is a respectable and pleasant place enough, but yet I should think there is about as much similarity between its present condition and its ancient greatness, as there is resemblance between its present and its Saxon name. I know the names of many places have been so corrupted that one can scarcely believe they came from the original, but I think it must require a very learned etymologist to show how Abingdon can be derived from Sheovesham.

MRS. LESLIE.

I think so too, my dear. The name Abingdon, or Abbington as it was formerly called, is not, however, a corruption of its more ancient name, but a new one signifying the abbey's town, which it received from a Benedictine abbey founded by Cissa, king of the West-Saxons in the year 675.

MARION.

Oh! thank you, mamma. I knew that Abingdon was formerly celebrated for a beautiful abbey, a gateway of which still remains, but I was not aware that the name of the town was derived from it.

HERBERT.

The first abbey was destroyed by the Danes, who ravaged the county in the reigns of Alfred and his predecessor Ethelred, but it was rebuilt by Edgar in 954, and after the Conquest was so greatly enlarged and enriched by the Norman abbots that it became one of the most magnificent monastic establishments in the kingdom. William the Conqueror kept Easter at the abbey in 1084, and left his youngest son Henry there to be educated by the monks.

MARION.

They must have taken more interest in his improvement than some of their fraternity of an earlier period did in that of the

youthful Alfred, for when Henry the First ascended the throne, he was named Beauclerc on account of the extent of his literary attainments.

KATE.

I should like to know in what they consisted. I expect he was not altogether as good a scholar as Herbert is.

MRS. LESLIE.

Probably not; but in those days it was so unusual for kings to have any learning at all, that a very moderate acquaintance with letters was sufficient to constitute a prince a most accomplished scholar.

HERBERT.

In the early part of the year 1644, Charles the First conveyed his queen to Abingdon, but, believing her to be in danger from the growing enmity of the people, he soon had her removed to Exeter. During the same year the Parliamentarians plundered the town, defaced the buildings, and demolished the beautiful cross which stood in the market-place, and had long been considered the greatest ornament of the town.

WILLIE.

Every place we come to seems to have been knocked about in those dreadful civil wars. How long *did* they last, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Nearly nine years. The first battle was fought on the 23rd of October, 1642, at Edge Hill in Warwickshire, and the last took place at Worcester, on the 3rd of September, 1651. Before we notice the remaining towns of Berkshire, we may observe that Abingdon has a good trade in corn and malt, and contains a population of nearly 6000.

KATE.

Newbury is a large and well-built market-town, situated on the river Kennet, containing about 7000 inhabitants. It was formerly celebrated for the woollen manufacture, but is now chiefly dependent on its trade in corn, malt, and flour.

MRS. LESLIE.

The historical annals of Newbury furnish another instance of the wide-spread desolation caused by the civil wars. Two sanguinary battles were fought near the town, which suffered considerably from the calamity. In the first of these engagements fell the accomplished Lord Falkland, one of the brightest ornaments of the age in which he lived. With a heart keenly alive to the horrors of civil war, he was impelled by a sense of duty to take up arms in the defence of his sovereign, but he deeply sympathised with his bleeding country, and all his hopes and aspirations were for the restoration of peace. On the morning of the day on which he fell, he gave utterance to the prophetic speech: "I am weary of the times, I foresee much misery to my country, and I believe that I shall be out of it before night."

MARION.

Hungerford is an ancient market-town on the river Kennet; Maidenhead, a pleasant town on the Thames; and Faringdon a neat market-town noted for a fine hill, and a remarkable clump of trees called the "Folly," which is seen for many miles around; but there is little historical interest attached to either of these towns.

KATE.

I think I have heard that Faringdon once possessed a castle.

MRS. LESLIE.

During the wars of Stephen and the Empress Maude a castle was erected at Faringdon, by Robert, earl of Gloucester, one of the wisest and most powerful partisans of Maude, but it was completely destroyed by Stephen, and has never been rebuilt. Even its site is quite unknown.

HERBERT.

Wallingford is a town that demands more particular notice, as it was a place of great importance in ancient times. Antiquaries have generally believed it to have been the chief city of the Atrebatii, and subsequently a Roman station, the form of the ramparts indicating their Roman origin.

WILLIE.

I know the old castle of Wallingford was built in the time of William the Conqueror, mamma; for you told me so last summer, as we were walking up the hill on which the keep used to stand.

MRS. LESLIE.

A Saxon fortress existed at Wallingford before the Norman Conquest, and at that period was occupied by a nobleman named Wigod, who seems to have submitted to the Conqueror without offering any opposition. Immediately after the battle of Hastings William led his army to Wallingford, and crossed the Thames at a ford close to the town, when he was met by Stigand, Archbishop of Canterbury, and a large body of Saxon nobles, who seeing resistance was useless, rendered him homage as their sovereign.

KATE.

I think such submission was very cowardly. If I had been a Saxon nobleman I would have withstood him like Hereward-le-Wake, and the bold abbot of St Alban's.

MRS. LESLIE.

Perhaps, Katie, you might have lived to learn that "discretion is the better part of valour."

HERBERT.

Wallingford castle was built about a year after the Conquest, by Robert D'Oyley, a Norman baron, to whom Wigod had given his only daughter in marriage. In the contest for the crown in the reign of Stephen, the castle was held for the Empress Maude, who took refuge in it after her flight from Oxford. On her arrival at Wallingford she was met by her eldest son, Prince Henry, a fine boy eleven years old, whom the duke of Gloucester had just fetched from Normandy.

KATE.

How overjoyed the prince must have been to see his mother, after all the dangers she had escaped!

HERBERT.

The castle was the scene of several important meetings during

the unsettled reigns of John, Henry the Third, and Edward the Second. Towards the close of the civil wars of Charles the First the army of Fairfax invested the town, and compelled the castle to surrender, after which it was so completely demolished by the Parliamentarians that only some fragments of walls were left.

MARION.

But you know, mamma, we were shown a room belonging to, but detached from, the modern mansion now called the castle, which we were told was part of the ancient fortress.

MRS. LESLIE.

If that apartment ever belonged to it the interior at least has been completely modernised. The thickness and solidity of the ivy-mantled walls leading to it, however, undoubtedly denote them to have been the work of an age when impregnability was of the first importance in architecture.

HERBERT.

Who would suppose that Wallingford once possessed fourteen parish churches and a mint? but such, I believe, was the case.

MRS. LESLIE.

Fourteen churches have been stated, but the sites of ten have been clearly ascertained. Since the time of Charles the First the town has also declined in historical interest, and is now principally known as a pleasant and well-conducted market-town, with a population of about 3000. Can you mention any other place of historical note in this county, Willie?

WILLIE.

Wantage is celebrated as the birthplace of Alfred the Great. He was the youngest son of King Ethelwolf, was he not, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, my dear; and was born at the royal manor of Wantage, then called Vanathing in the year 849. He was his father's favourite child, and in the fifth year of his age accompanied him on

a pilgrimage to Rome, where he was consecrated as king, by Pope Leo the Fourth.

KATE.

What ! while his father and elder brothers were alive ?

MRS. LESLIE.

Though he received inaugural honours at that early age, they were not intended to raise him to the throne. In those days consecration by the Pope was esteemed the highest privilege a monarch could enjoy, and it is supposed that Ethelwolf was glad to avail himself of the opportunity of securing such a distinction for his darling son, in the distant hope of his succeeding to the crown. This expectation was realised in the twenty-second year of Alfred's age, by the premature deaths of his brothers, the last of whom, Ethelred, died in 871, from wounds received in battle with the Danes.

KATE.

Wantage has not been at all a noted place in modern times, I believe ?

MRS. LESLIE.

No ; it is a quiet market-town, having somewhat of the appearance of antiquity, and deriving its highest renown from its having given birth to the great and good King Alfred. We have now, I believe, noticed the principal places of Berkshire, as well as the most interesting of their associations ; Wiltshire is the next county for our consideration.

CONVERSATION XXXVI.

WILTSHIRE.

SUBJECTS:— Ancient Possessions of the Church of Rome.— Boundaries of the County. — Size. — Conquest by Romans. — Engagements with Danes. — Natural Features.— Mineral Produce.— Salisbury Plain.— Manufactures.— Ancient Capital.— Salisbury.— Old Sarum.— Ancient Importance.— Causes of Decline.— Salisbury Cathedral.— Woollen Manufacture.— Chief Rivers of County.— Stonehenge.— Avebury.— Trowbridge.— Devizes.— Malmesbury. — Magnificent Abbey.— Its Origin. — Ancient possessions. — Beautiful Ruins. — Market-Cross.— William of Malmesbury.— Trade of Town. — Chippenham.— Swindon.— Changes effected by Railways.— Swindon New and Old Towns.— Marlborough.— Warminster and other Towns.

“WHAT an amazing amount of power the Church of Rome must formerly have possessed in this country!” exclaimed Herbert Leslie, looking up from a map he had for some time been intently studying. “Just look, Marion,” he added, “at the vast possessions which belonged to the Abbey of Malmesbury in its ‘high and palmy days,’” and he pointed to the red-lettered places on a map published by the London Society of Antiquaries in 1857.

“Your observation is quite correct, Herbert,” rejoined his mother, “the power of the Church increased with its possessions, and these were naturally very great in an age when the foundation or endowment of a monastery was deemed a sufficient expiation for sins of the deepest dye. The interesting account of Malmesbury Abbey which you have before you contains a long list of Anglo-Saxon kings and nobles whose piety or fears constrained them to enrich it with the large grants of lands you have pointed out. But we had better leave this subject for the present, and

give Katie an opportunity of stating the boundaries and size of Wiltshire.

KATE.

Wiltshire is bounded on the north and northwest by Gloucestershire; on the east by Berkshire and Hampshire; on the south by Hampshire and Dorsetshire; and on the west by Somersetshire. This county has also several small detached portions, surrounded by Berkshire and Gloucestershire. The greatest length of the main portion of Wiltshire is about fifty-four miles, and its greatest breadth thirty-seven miles.

HERBERT.

Antiquaries have expressed some doubts as to the British tribes to which this county anciently belonged, but they appear to think it certain that the Belgæ possessed a considerable portion. It is supposed to have been conquered by Vespasian in the reign of Claudius, and the numerous Roman roads that have been traced, and the antiquities that have been brought to light by excavation, tend to prove the truth of the saying that "where the Roman conquers he inhabits." In the Roman division of Britain Wiltshire formed part of the province of Britannia Prima, and during the Saxon heptarchy was included in the kingdom of Wessex.

KATE.

Wiltshire appears to have been continually ravaged by the Danes, and to have been the scene of several severe engagements, in one of which they were so totally defeated by Alfred the Great that they were compelled to surrender the Danish camp, and submit to his authority.

MARION.

This county is naturally divided into two districts, which, from their relative positions are denominated North and South Wiltshire. The northern district was at one period covered with dense forests, but now contains some of the finest pasture lands in England, and is greatly celebrated for the abundance and superiority of its dairy produce. The arable land is also equally productive, with the exception of a small tract of land called Braden Forest, which

is remarkable for its great sterility. A large portion of South Wiltshire is occupied by Salisbury plain, one of the most secluded districts in England.

KATE.

Does Wiltshire produce any minerals, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

None of importance but iron, and that is only found to the extent of about 15,000 tons per annum.

HERBERT.

I had formed a very different idea of Salisbury Plain to that which I find is the correct one. Instead of being a uniform level surface, as its name would lead one to imagine, it consists of gently undulating chalk downs, which succeed one another as far as the eye can reach, the valleys between them being lost to view in the general appearance of the vast expanse. These little valleys contain several villages and hamlets, whose inhabitants are chiefly employed in tending the innumerable flocks of sheep that feed upon the Downs.

WILLIE.

Wiltshire is celebrated for the manufacture of woollen cloth, is it not, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

In some degree, my dear; but the trade is not carried on to so great an extent as formerly, the productions of Yorkshire and Scotland, I am informed, having seriously interfered with the manufacturing interests of this county.

HERBERT.

Wiltshire was anciently called Wilton-shire, from a town named Wilton or Wiltown, which derived its name from its position on the river Willey. This town, though now decayed, was the capital of the West-Saxon dominions, and the seat of several important monastic establishments. Alfred's first battle with the Danes was fought at Wilton, in less than a month after his accession to the throne. In later times Wilton was celebrated for its manufacture of flannel, and woollen cloths, and was the first place in England.

where the carpet manufacture was carried on. Salisbury, the present capital of this county, rose to importance on the decay of Wilton and the neighbouring town of Old Sarum.

KATE.

I always imagined Salisbury was a very ancient town, and was so much surprised to find that it was not founded until the middle of the thirteenth century.

MRS. LESLIE.

The name New Sarum, by which Salisbury was formerly known, is sufficient to correct the notion of its great antiquity, as it necessarily implies the existence of a former place of the same name.

MARION.

Old Sarum was a city of great importance in ancient times, was it not, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, my dear; and politically in comparatively modern times also, for it continued to send two members to parliament long after it had ceased to possess either houses or inhabitants. When I was about your age, I used often to hear your grandpapa speak of the necessity for reform in the elective franchise, and protest against the absurdity of this "rotten borough," as it was termed, sending as many members to parliament as the populous city of York. This political anomaly was done away by the passing of the Reform Act in 1832, when Old Sarum was disfranchised, as well as several other unimportant boroughs in this and other counties.

KATE.

But you have not told us anything about the ancient greatness of Old Sarum, nor how it came to decline and be entirely deserted by its inhabitants.

MRS. LESLIE.

That it was a place of great importance in the earliest history of our country is quite evident from its ancient fortifications. A British hill-fort or artificial mound of great extent yet remains to attest the perseverance with which the ancient inhabitants defended their possessions against the Roman invaders. After the

district was subjugated by Vespasian, Old Sarum is believed to have been occupied as an important Roman station ; and during the Anglo-Saxon era it appears still to have increased in importance and prosperity, and to have possessed a strongly fortified castle. About ten years after the Norman Conquest it was made a bishop's see, which, together with the erection of a cathedral, raised it to its utmost height of prosperity. Two causes appear to have contributed to its downfall. The one, its unfavourable situation on a bleak and barren hill, where the inhabitants were much distressed for want of water ; and the other, the existence of continual feuds between the officers of the citadel, and the ecclesiastics of the place. To remedy the evils resulting from both these causes, the bishops and clergy early in the thirteenth century resolved to remove to the vale below, and having obtained leave from the pope, commenced building the cathedral on its present site. While the ecclesiastics were thus zealously engaged in the prosecution of their pious undertaking, the laity, who had followed their spiritual leaders, were no less actively employed in the formation of a city, which shortly rose to such importance that the Great Western Road, which had formerly passed through Old Sarum, was by royal authority turned through New Sarum or Salisbury. From that time, the old town continued rapidly to decline, and in the reign of Henry the Seventh was entirely deserted ; while New Sarum, or Salisbury, had so increased in size and prosperity as to be considered one of the finest cities in the West of England.

WILLIE.

Salisbury Cathedral is celebrated for its lofty spire. I wonder whether it is as high as the monument of London ?

MRS. LESLIE.

It is exactly twice as high, Willie, its summit being 404 feet from the ground. Salisbury spire is, I believe, the most lofty building of stone that has ever been erected in England, although the wooden spire of old St. Paul's exceeded it in height by more than a hundred feet.

WILLIE.

Do you know, mamma, Miss Selby says that Salisbury Cathedral has as many windows as there are days in a year, as many pillars as there are hours, and as many gates as months. Isn't that curious?

MRS. LESLIE.

It is, Willie. The learned Daniel Rogers, an eminent statesman and writer of the 16th century, has recorded this singular circumstance in verse. He says :

"How many days in one whole year there be,
So many windows in our church we see;
So many marble pillars there appear
As there are hours throughout the fleeting year;
So many gates as moons one year does view :
Strange tales to tell, yet not so strange as true."

MARION.

The city of Salisbury was formerly extensively engaged in the woollen manufacture, but the trade has now considerably declined. The population is nearly 12,000.

WILLIE.

The Kennet, the Upper Avon, and the Willey are the principal rivers of this county.

MRS. LESLIE.

Very good. Wiltshire appears to have been the scene of but few events of importance, in the written history of our country, but it is one of the richest English counties as regards standing memorials of remote antiquity. Stonehenge, the most celebrated monument of pre-historic ages in our island, is situated on Salisbury plain, about seven miles from the city, and although now in a very dilapidated state is yet calculated to excite feelings of awe by its majestic grandeur.

KATE.

Stonehenge is the remains of a druidical temple, is it not, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Such is the most rational and generally received opinion, Katie; but the subject has given rise to a variety of speculative, and in

some instances absurd, theories. From what place, by what means, and for what purpose, such gigantic stones were brought and placed in their present form and situation, have been questions of endless discussion among antiquaries, and all the learning and labour that have been employed have failed to arrive at any positive conclusion as to the origin or history of this interesting ruin.

MARION.

I should like to know in what form the stones are placed, and how large they are.

MRS. LESLIE.

I have a print here which will give you a better idea of this stupendous relic of antiquity than any description I could give. Those huge upright blocks of stone which you see, with others placed horizontally upon them, are about fourteen feet in height, and composed the outer circle, which originally enclosed a space 100 feet in diameter, the stones being placed at nearly equal distances, and having others extended over them so as to form a continuous line or impost. Within this great circle was another, composed of much smaller stones, and destitute of imposts; and within that enclosure ten other stones, exceeding in magnitude those of the outer circle, disposed in pairs somewhat in the form of a horse-shoe. The original beauty of the outline has been destroyed by the ruthless hand of time, and still more by the wanton demolition of those who take no interest in the majestic remnants of antiquity; but enough remains to show the stupendous character of the original structure, and to excite amazement at the indisputable evidence it possesses of its having been the work of man at a period when machinery was unknown.

HERBERT.

The village of Avebury in North Wilts is another spot eminently interesting to the antiquary, from the circumstance of its being built in the very area of one of these supposed druidical temples, from the stones of which many of the walls and houses are constructed. Although less celebrated than Stonehenge, the circle at Avebury is said greatly to have exceeded it in magnitude and

antiquity, and, from the cromlechs and other British remains that have been found in the neighbourhood, is supposed to have been one of the most important places of the kind in Britain. Large masses of stone are still to be seen dispersed about the neighbouring Downs, and from the appearance they present from a distance are called the "Grey Wethers."

MARION.

How indignant antiquaries must feel, when they see such venerable stones removed from the position in which they had stood for ages, and applied to building purposes!

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; in prosecuting their investigations they have much to contend with from the enterprising spirit of the age, which is for converting everything into objects of practical utility. To a great extent such a measure is commendable, but yet one could wish that exception were made in favour of those interesting relics which are the only records we possess of pre-historic ages. But it is time for us to turn our attention to the most important towns of Wiltshire.

HERBERT.

Trowbridge is the largest and most populous town of this county, and the chief seat of its clothing trade. The kinds of goods principally made there are fancy trouserings, and the demand for the same materials for coatings has prevented the town from participating in the general depression of the manufactures of Wiltshire. There are now about sixteen factories in the town, worked by steam power, and a few others where manual labour is employed. The population of Trowbridge is about 10,000.

MARION.

Devizes is a large and populous market-town, situated near the centre of the county. Its origin is involved in obscurity, but from the absence of any notice of it in Doomsday book, it is supposed that it did not exist prior to the Conquest, although some have ascribed its foundation to the ancient Britons. In the reign of Henry the First, a magnificent castle was erected by Roger, bishop

of Salisbury ; but, like most other English fortresses, it suffered considerably from the contest of Stephen and the Empress Maude, and at some subsequent period was quite demolished. Devizes possesses a good local trade, and is noted for excellent ale. Its population is above 6000.

HERBERT.

The ancient town of Malmesbury is one of the most interesting places in Wiltshire, from the remains of its beautiful abbey church, the nave of which is still used for public worship. The site of Malmesbury appears originally to have been occupied by a British town, called *Caer Bladon*, the name of which was changed into *Ingelbourne*, by the Saxons.

KATE.

I think, mamma, you once told me that Malmesbury Abbey rose from a very small beginning.

MRS. LESLIE.

It originated with a learned Scottish monk, named *Maildolph*, who, to escape the violence of his own countrymen, fled to England and settled on this spot, with the intention of spending his life in solitude and devotion. By degrees, however, a little band of scholars gathered round him, and agreed to live with him conformably to the rules of monastic discipline. *Maildolph* built a little monastery for them, and this humble beginning laid the foundation of one of the most magnificent abbeys in the West of England, and also gave name to the town which rose around it, *Malmesbury* being a corruption of *Maildolph's-bury*, or the town of *Maildolph*.

KATE.

Did the first monastery last long, mamma ?

MRS. LESLIE.

No ; it was soon found insufficient for the requirements of the increasing fraternity, and on the death of *Maildolph* a magnificent and spacious abbey was erected by *Eleutherius*, bishop of Winchester ; and *Aldhelm*, the most eminent of *Maildolph's* scholars, was appointed abbot. The superior learning and piety of *Aldhelm* contributed greatly to the prosperity of the abbey, and contributions

poured in from every quarter, until it became one of the most affluent monastic institutions of the country. Herbert will mention some of the Saxon kings who enriched it with their benefactions.

HERBERT.

In the list before me are the well-known names of Ethelred, Ethelwolf, Alfred, Edward, Athelstan, Edwy, and Edgar, as well as others of less note. Large grants of land were also given to the abbey by numerous nobles and prelates, so that in the reign of Edward the Confessor its possessions were assessed at 282 hides, which is believed to have been equal to nearly 34,000 acres.

KATE.

The ruins of Malmesbury abbey church are very fine, are they not, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; they exhibit some beautiful specimens of Norman and Early English architecture. Their massive columns, sculptured mouldings, and lofty circular and pointed arches convey a faint idea of what the entire structure must have been. The southern porch is considered the finest piece of Norman architecture now to be found in England.

HERBERT.

What a shame it would be to destroy such interesting remains of ancient magnificence; but it appears that the abbey would have been demolished soon after the dissolution of monastic houses, had not Thomas Stump, a rich clothier of Malmesbury, bought it and bestowed it on the town.

MARION.

I think Malmesbury has been rather fortunate in the preservation of its relics of antiquity, for it also possesses a beautiful market-cross, which was judiciously restored at the beginning of the present century, and is still considered one of the chief architectural ornaments of the place.

KATE.

I suppose William of Malmesbury, the ancient historian, was a native of this town?

MRS. LESLIE.

The birthplace of that trustworthy old historian has not been satisfactorily ascertained, but at an early age he was placed in the monastery of this town, and in course of time became its librarian and precentor. He is thought to have taken his name from his connection with the abbey, rather than from Malmesbury having been his native town.

WILLIE.

I suppose Malmesbury is not a place of much importance now, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

No; it is a quiet, ancient-looking country town. The woollen manufacture was formerly carried on there, but the factory is now occupied by a company from Derby for the manufacture of ribbons.

MARION.

Chippenham is a flourishing and important market-town of Wilts, situated on the river Avon, and celebrated for its extensive trade in cheese, corn, and provisions of all kinds. Its population is nearly 5000. It is engaged in the clothing trade to some extent.

KATE.

What a deal of good the railways must have done to England, mamma! Just look at Swindon, in Wiltshire. I heard papa saying that its population has increased nearly three-fold within the last twenty years, in consequence of its connection with the Great Western Railway.

MRS. LESLIE.

Your observation is quite correct, Katie, as regards the benefit that railways have been to the country at large; but, if we come to notice individual cases, we shall find that the existence of railways has had an exactly opposite effect on some towns, to that which has been produced at Swindon.

KATE.

Oh! yes, I remember you told us something like that once

before, mamma. I believe you said that the railways took the traffic from some places, and that they declined in consequence.

MRS. LESLIE.

Exactly so. I can give you an instance to the point. I was the other day in conversation with a gentleman from Benson in Oxfordshire, who informed me that, five and twenty years ago, no less than forty stage-coaches daily passed through that little town: in addition to which, vehicles of all descriptions were constantly passing and repassing, from the noble travelling carriage of the peer, to the ponderous London waggon, the usual mode of conveyance of the humbler classes of the rural districts when any extraordinary event obliged them to take a journey to the great metropolis. This, of course, created a demand for provisions, beds, and other requirements incidental to travelling, and gave an air of briskness and activity to the general appearance of the town. Its traffic is now entirely gone,—its principal inn untenanted,—the postboy's "twanging horn" no longer breaks the stillness of the midnight hour, nor heralds in the early morning, and there is little to attract a passing glance from the unoccupied, except the occasional vehicle of some well-known farmer proceeding to the neighbouring market.

KATE.

This reminds me of what you have often told us, mamma, that in this world there is very little unmixed good or unmitigated evil.

MRS. LESLIE.

Just so. And such being the case, the individual evil must be tolerated for the sake of the universal good. The establishment of railways has been of incalculable benefit to the general interests of the country, notwithstanding the depression they have caused in towns whose prosperity chiefly depended on the support derived from travellers. Many towns and road-side inns, situated on the old coach roads of our country, have experienced a similar decline to that which has taken place at Benson; yet even the inhabitants of those comparatively deserted places derive advantages from that expeditious mode of travelling which has occasioned

their commercial depression. We will now return to Swindon, and hear what more you have to tell us about that rising market-town.

KATE.

Swindon consists of two distinct towns, having different means of support. The old and most respectable town is pleasantly situated on a hill commanding extensive views of the surrounding country, and is chiefly dependent on its local trade and its corn and cattle market. The new town, which has entirely risen up within the last fifteen years, is built in the vale adjacent to the railway-station, and is principally occupied by the numerous servants and workmen to whom the railway company gives employment. Swindon station is by far the largest and handsomest building of the kind upon the line, and the one at which every train stops ten minutes for refreshment. The population of the two towns is about 5000.

MRS. LESLIE.

Wiltshire contains several other market-towns, among which are Marlborough, Warminster, Westbury, Cricklade, and Highworth; but there is little either in their past history or present state to require especial notice. Other matters now require my attention, and I need only tell you that Dorsetshire is the county for investigation during the ensuing week.

KATE.

I just glanced the other day through an account of Dorsetshire, and it appeared to be very deficient of historical interest.

MRS. LESLIE.

Like Wiltshire, the county has been the scene of but few important historical events since the Norman Conquest; but yet it has its own peculiar points of attraction, some of which we shall find well worthy of our notice. It possesses at least one natural object which for singularity is scarcely paralleled in Europe. I leave you to discover what it is.

CONVERSATION XXXVII.



DORSETSHIRE.

SUBJECTS: — Boundaries. — Size. — Ancient Inhabitants. — Memorials of Romans. — British Coins. — Mackerel Fishery. — Dorchester a Roman Station. — Amphitheatre. — Massacre of Danae. — Calamities of the Town. — Disaffection of Inhabitants to Charles the First. — Appearance of Town. — Chief Rivers of County. — Isle of Portland. — Chesil Bank. — Singular Formation. — Decline of illicit Trade. — Portland Stone. — Portlanders. — Portland Breakwater. — Town of Chesil. — Weymouth. — Foundation of present Celebrity. — Poole. — Extensive Pottery Works. — Bridport. — Blandford. — Lyme Regis. — Duke of Monmouth's Rebellion. — Battle of Sedgemoor. — Monmouth's Execution. — Bloody Assize. — Ancient Monastic Establishments. — Town of Corfe Castle. — Erection of ancient Castle. — Assassination of Edward the Martyr. — Destruction of the Castle. — Gloomy old Ruins. — Superstition of Peasantry. — Nocturnal Appearances satisfactorily accounted for.

THE intimation conveyed by Mrs. Leslie at the close of the last conversation had the effect of stimulating the young students to an unusually early research into the next county, so that, long before the day appointed for conversation on Dorsetshire, they had each discovered the extraordinary natural object to which she had alluded.

"I see, my dear children, I need not ask you in what manner the Isle of Portland is connected with the main-land of Dorsetshire," she said, as she observed the intelligent looks and smiling countenances that greeted her appearance.

KATE.

No, that you need not, indeed, mamma; for we all know that

they are united by the "Chesil Bank," and that that was what you meant when you said Dorsetshire contained one object at least that was very remarkable. We were not puzzled very long before we discovered it.

MRS. LESLIE.

I did not expect you would be, my dear. I shall presently be glad to hear all you have ascertained relative to that extraordinary work of nature; but, as usual, our first object must be to ascertain the boundaries and size of Dorsetshire.

KATE.

It is bounded on the north by Somersetshire and Wiltshire, on the east by Hampshire, on the west by Devonshire, and on the south by the English Channel. Its greatest length, from east to west, is about fifty-five miles; its greatest breadth, from north to south, about forty miles. At the western extremity it measures but five miles from north to south.

MARION.

Dorsetshire was anciently inhabited by the Durotriges, a tribe of Belgic origin, whose name Camden supposes to have been derived from the British words *dwr*, water, and *trig*, an inhabitant, and applicable to them as "dwellers by the water." The Saxon name Dorsettan, from which Dorsetshire is derived, is said to bear the same signification.

HERBERT.

When Southern Britain was conquered by the Romans this county was included in the province of Britannia Prima, and during the Saxon heptarchy formed part of the kingdom of Wessex. Many memorials of the Romans are still to be seen. No less than twenty-five Roman camps are said to have been traced, and Roman coins, pavements, and other antiquities, have also been discovered.

KATE.

I wonder when the Britons learnt the art of coining? I remember reading that at the time of Cæsar's invasion their money consisted of rings of brass or iron of a certain weight.

MRS. LESLIE.

I believe the earliest British coins that have been discovered, and with any degree of certainty ascribed to a particular monarch, are those of Cunobeline, a British king, who lived several years at Rome during the reigns of the emperors Augustus and Tiberius, the immediate successors of Julius Cæsar.

WILLIE.

Do you know, mamma, Miss Selby told me last night that Dorsetshire used to be so greatly celebrated for the mackerel fishery, that 100 have been sold for a penny! Can that be true, do you think?

MRS. LESLIE.

It appears almost incredible, certainly; but I know it is stated as a fact in Hutchins's "History of Dorsetshire," and if, as is also affirmed, thirty or forty thousand have been taken at a draught, their extraordinary cheapness is easily accounted for. The fishing off the Dorsetshire coast is, however, very uncertain, and of late years has been much less productive than in former times. And now, Willie, tell us the capital of this county.

WILLIE.

Dorchester, near to the river Frome.

MARION.

Dorchester is a very ancient place, and, as its name implies, it was a fortified station of the Romans. By them it was called Durnovaria and Durinum. It is situated on an extended plain which abounds in tumuli and other memorials of antiquity. The most interesting relic of past ages the neighbourhood possesses is a Roman amphitheatre, which, it has been computed, was capable of accommodating nearly 23,000 spectators, and is considered the most perfect of any now to be found in Britain.

HERBERT.

As the extension of dominion was the grand object of the Romans in their conquest of Britain, I wonder they took so much pains to introduce their national amusements.

MRS. LESLIE.

I imagine there was nothing more likely to tend to the establishment of their own power, and induce a willing submission on the part of the vanquished, than the union of feeling likely to be produced by a participation in the same sports and recreations. However inhuman and revolting gladiatorial exhibitions may appear to us, there is no doubt they possessed a charm in the eyes of our barbarous ancestors, and by being adopted in common with the language, dress, and customs of the conquerors, probably contributed in no slight degree to the general amity which prevailed during the latter years of the Roman government of Britain.

KATE.

Dorchester was a place of great importance under the Saxons, and in the reign of Athelstan was distinguished by the establishment of two mints for coinage. It suffered greatly from the depredations of the Danes, and in 1003 was burnt by Sweyn to revenge the massacre of his Danish subjects.

WILLIE,

What massacre, Katie?

KATE.

A very dreadful one which took place in the reign of Ethelred, who, to rid himself of those barbarous invaders, sent instructions to every magistrate in the West of England to have all the Danes put to death. This barbarous order was fully obeyed, and in a single night multitudes of men, women, and children perished by the sword.

MARION.

Dorchester appears to have had its share of calamities in comparatively modern times. In 1595 it was almost depopulated by the plague, and in 1613 a dreadful fire broke out and consumed property to the amount of 200,000*l.*, including the destruction of two churches and three hundred houses.

MRS. LESLIE.

Such were terrible visitations indeed, but there is little doubt that such an extensive conflagration as you have named proved

an effectual remedy against the recurrence of the plague, by the purification it effected in the town.

HERBERT.

I hope the people of Dorchester are more loyal subjects now than they were in the reign of Charles the First, for it is said that during the civil wars they were more disaffected to the cause of the king than the inhabitants of any other place in England, and that they worked day and night to fortify the town against him.

MRS. LESLIE.

Perhaps, Herbert, they would tell you that our sovereign is more deserving of devotion than was the unconstitutional Charles the First.

KATE.

Oh! mamma, how sorry I am to hear you so often saying something against that unfortunate king.

MRS. LESLIE.

You mean, Katie, how sorry you are that my sympathy for his misfortunes does not make me blind to his faults. Is it not so?

KATE.

Why, yes, mamma, I believe you are right; but, do you know, whenever I think about Charles the First, I never remember *anything but his misfortunes*.

MRS. LESLIE.

Such is a very natural feeling at your age, my dear, and one that I am sorry to discourage, although truth compels me to say that in too many instances Charles gave his subjects just cause for complaint, and by his own imprudence increased their disaffection.

KATE.

But you know, mamma, the people were so discontented and rebellious that you have often said it must have been a very difficult matter to govern them.

MRS. LESLIE.

And therefore there was the greater necessity for prudence and circumspection on the part of the king. But we must not dwell upon this subject now. Have either of you anything further to communicate relative to Dorchester?

MARION.

It is a pleasant town, situated on a gentle hill, and partially surrounded by delightful walks shaded by lime and sycamore trees. The woollen manufacture formerly flourished here, but is now entirely extinct, and the trade of the town is very inconsiderable. Its population is about 7000.

WILLIE.

The principal rivers of Dorsetshire are the Stour, the Trent, and the Frome.

HERBERT.

As the Isle of Portland is one of the most important parts of this county in a commercial point of view, shall we notice it now, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

If you like, my dear. I shall be happy to hear what information you have acquired relating to it.

HERBERT.

The island, or rather peninsula, of Portland is about four miles long, and a mile and a half broad at the widest part. It is situated at the southern extremity of Dorsetshire, and is united to the main-land by the Chesil Bank, an extraordinary ridge of pebbles, which runs parallel to, but is separated from, the south-western coast by a narrow channel or arm of the sea, called the Fleet.

KATE.

Just look, mamma, what an odd appearance the Isle of Portland has upon the map. It puts me in mind of a paper kite, and the Chesil Bank looks like the string by which it is suspended.

MRS. LESLIE.

I do not know that your comparison is a very bad one, Katie.

I dare say Herbert can tell us the length and breadth of this remarkable pebbly bank which has such an insignificant appearance on the map.

HERBERT.

The length of that part of the Chesil Bank which is detached from the main land, and which Katie compares to a string, is about ten miles. It extends from Portland to Abbotsbury, where it unites with the main land, and runs along the coast nearly six miles farther. In some parts it is nearly a quarter of a mile wide, but its general width is not more than two hundred yards.

WILLIE.

Will you tell me, mamma, what there is so extraordinary about this bank?

MRS. LESLIE.

You may suppose there is something very striking in the *appearance* of a long, narrow neck of land stretching out into the sea for a length of ten miles; but the *formation* of the Chesil Bank is still more remarkable. Its surface is covered with smooth, round pebbles, which lie loose to a depth of from four to six feet, and then rest upon a bed of hard blue clay, the pebbles varying in size according to the part of the bank upon which they are found. In the vicinity of Portland, they are as large as hens' eggs, but gradually diminish in size along the entire bank; at Abbotsbury being about the size of horse-beans; at Swyre, of peas or fine gravel; and further west, having the appearance of coarse, rough sand. In former times, the coast of Dorsetshire was much infested by smugglers, and it is said that when they landed on this beach of a dark night, they could tell how near they were to Portland or Abbotsbury, by examining the pebbles of which it is composed.

HERBERT.

How little we hear of smugglers now-a-days, mamma! All the narratives I have ever met with of their lawless kind of life, relate to former times.

MRS. LESLIE.

A blessing which is to be mainly ascribed to the increased wisdom of our legislators, who, by the reduction of excessive

duties on imported goods, have lessened the temptation to their illicit introduction. But I was going to tell Willie that the Chesil Bank is thought to have been formed by deposits from the sea, at a comparatively recent period, and that the isle of Portland was once, as its name imports, really and entirely an island.

WILLIE.

Are there any houses upon this curious bank, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Oh! no, Willie, it is not capable of being built upon, and if it were, it would prove a very insecure foundation against the fury of the winds and waves. Chambers relates an anecdote of a heavy ship being driven on to it, and carried over into the eastern bay. It is, however, here and there covered with patches of vegetation, quantities of sea-kale and eryngo growing on it without any apparent source of nourishment. And now, perhaps, Willie, you can tell us for what the island of Portland is so greatly celebrated.

WILLIE.

For Portland stone, with which Blackfriars Bridge, and so many of the houses in London, are built.

KATE.

It appears that Portland stone first came into repute after the Great Fire of London. James the First, by the advice of his architects, used it in the erection of the Banqueting House at Whitehall. St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Bridge, the New Royal Exchange, and many other public buildings of London, are constructed of this stone. It is also extensively used in other places.

MARION.

I should think the quarries of the little island will be soon exhausted.

MRS. LESLIE.

One might almost be led to think so from the quantity annually dug, which is stated to be between 30,000 and 40,000 tons. The whole island, however, is a bed of freestone, and at present the

quarries are worked as extensively as ever. The stone is found about thirty feet below the surface, the surface-soil or "dirt-bed," as it is technically called, abounding in fossil trees.

HERBERT.

Quarrying stone must be a most laborious occupation.

MRS. LESLIE.

It is ; but the Portlanders are a robust and hardy race, and well inured to labour. They formerly lived almost isolated from the rest of the world, and still retain many primitive habits and modes of life, and although, in common with the inhabitants of many other places on the western coast, they were at one period distinguished by the disreputable character of "wreckers," their morality for many years has been almost proverbial.

KATE.

What were "wreckers," mamma ?

MRS. LESLIE.

Men who lived by the plunder of shipwrecked vessels. The coast of Portland has been very fatal to mariners, for the want of a harbour in which vessels might take refuge during a storm ; but the erection of a breakwater, now in course of construction, it is hoped, will prove an efficient shelter, and be the means of saving many ships which would otherwise have been devoted to destruction.

HERBERT.

The Portland breakwater is a gigantic undertaking !

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes ; it is to be 2500 yards in length, the estimated cost being 844,125*l*. The expense would, indeed, have been much greater, had it not been for the proximity of the materials required for its construction.

WILLIE.

You have not told us what towns are in the island, mamma.

MRS. LESLIE.

There is but one,—the town of Chesil,—a singular-looking old

place, built upon a hill near to the Chesil Bank, from which it takes its name. This venerable town commands extensive and picturesque views of the western bay, and on a clear day, Torbay in Devonshire may be distinguished from the summit of the hill. But it is time we bade adieu to this little isle; therefore, transporting ourselves in imagination on board a Weymouth steamer, an ideal passage of half an hour will convey us to the most frequented town of Dorsetshire.

MARION.

Weymouth is a sea-port town and fashionable bathing-place, situated on the south bank of the mouth of the river Wey, and united with Melcombe Regis on the opposite bank by a neat stone bridge. Weymouth is the more ancient, but Melcombe Regis is the larger and finer town. Both, however, have long been known by the general name of Weymouth, and contain unitedly a population of nearly 10,000.

HERBERT.

I believe Weymouth was not a place of much note until about the middle of the last century.

MRS. LESLIE.

Not of fashionable note; but in the reign of James the First, Weymouth and Melcombe Regis were alluded to in a charter granted by that monarch, as "great and famous ports," the trade of which had a very beneficial influence on the country. They then carried on an extensive traffic with the ports of the Mediterranean and Newfoundland. A period of commercial depression succeeded, caused in part by the rising importance of other places, and further increased by the baneful effects of the civil wars. Marion, perhaps, can tell us the circumstance which gave rise to the present prosperity of these towns.

MARION.

It is related that the reputation of Weymouth as a bathing-place is to be attributed to a gentleman of Bath, named Allen, who, about the year 1763, introduced the first bathing-machine, one he had had constructed for his own use. His health being greatly

improved by his residence at Weymouth, he recommended the town to his friends and acquaintance, and they in their turn recommended it to theirs, so that it soon rose into a watering-place of note. George the Third several times honoured it with his patronage, to deserve which, the inhabitants formed a splendid esplanade, and otherwise increased its attractions. The foreign trade of Weymouth is now very unimportant, but it is the annual resort of numerous visitors.

HERBERT.

Poole is a flourishing sea-port town, which appears to have risen to importance on the decay of the neighbouring port of Wareham, and from a small fishing village to have become one of the most busy towns of the county. It possesses an extensive foreign trade and is largely engaged in the Newfoundland fishery. Extensive pottery works have lately been established in the neighbourhood. Poole contains a population of above 9000.

KATE.

Bridport is a large town situated at the mouth of the river Brit, and celebrated for the manufacture of sail cloth, cordage, twine, and fishing nets. Ship building is also carried on to some extent. Its population is above 4000.

MRS. LESLIE.

The cliffs in the neighbourhood of Bridport, and indeed all along the coast from thence to Devonshire, are abrupt and precipitous, and remarkable for the singularity and beauty of the fossils which they contain.

MARION.

Blandford is one of the finest towns in Dorsetshire. It is pleasantly situated on the river Stour, and contains many handsome buildings of Portland stone. This town was formerly celebrated for its manufacture of beautiful point lace, which was considered scarcely inferior to that of Flanders, but there has been little made since the commencement of the seventeenth century. The prosperity of Blandford is now principally derived from its markets, and a respectable local trade. Its population is nearly 4000.

HERBERT.

Lyme Regis, a sea-port town at the south-western extremity of this county, is celebrated for its fine beach, and wild romantic scenery, and is much frequented during the bathing season. It is distinguished in history for the part it took in the Duke of Monmouth's rebellion in the reign of James the Second.

KATE.

I forget all about the Duke of Monmouth's rebellion, and I do not remember much about the character of James the Second, but I believe he was a strict Roman Catholic.

HERBERT.

You are right, Katie. Monmouth on the contrary was a zealous Protestant, and on that account a great favourite with the majority of the people, and as he had some fancied pretensions to the English crown, he was prevailed upon to return from Holland, where he had been some time residing, and to make an attempt to depose James, and establish himself upon the throne. On the 11th of June, 1685, he landed at Lyme Regis with about a hundred followers, erected his standard, and proclaimed his pretensions in the market place, and so great was his popularity, that in a day or two he was joined by nearly six thousand men.

MARION.

If I remember right, the rebellion was quickly quelled?

HERBERT.

Yes; Monmouth's force was chiefly composed of the lower orders of the populace, whose inexperience in the use of arms rendered them very unequal opponents to the well disciplined troops of the king; and in an engagement which took place at Sedgemoor, near Bridgewater, on the 5th of July, the rebel army was totally defeated, and Monmouth and many of his adherents were involved in destruction.

KATE.

Oh! I remember now, Herbert. The Duke of Monmouth fled from the field of battle, and having procured the disguise of a

peasant, concealed himself in a ditch, where he was found the following evening, almost exhausted by fatigue and hunger. He was beheaded at last, was he not?

HERBERT.

He was, although he implored mercy in the most abject terms. Those also who had assisted in his rebellion were punished with unusual severity, and numbers were put to death through the barbarity of the infamous Judge Jeffreys. Twelve of Monmouth's adherents were executed in Lyme Regis alone, and their fate excited general commiseration.

MARION.

Dorsetshire appears to have possessed a great number of monastic houses in olden time. Sherborne, Shaftesbury, Wimborne Minster, Carne Abbas, Melton Abbas, and Cranbourne, are all towns which derived their early importance from their ecclesiastical establishments. They are now places of but little note, and their trade is very inconsiderable.

WILLIE.

When are we going to notice Corfe Castle, mamma? I expected it would have been mentioned ever so long ago.

MRS. LESLIE.

If you like, Willie, you may tell us at once all you know about that little town.

WILLIE.

Town, mamma! I mean the castle where King Edward the Martyr was murdered by order of his mother-in-law, Elfrida.

MRS. LESLIE.

Well, my dear. That ancient castle is included in, and no doubt gave rise to a town of the same name in the Isle of Purbeck, a district in the south-eastern part of this county. Like the Isle of Thanet in Kent, Purbeck, though called an island, is in fact a peninsula. The town of Corfe Castle is situated nearly in the centre of the district, and contains extensive quarries of stone and grey marble, in which many of the inhabitants are employed. There is

not, however, much to interest you in this town, which consists principally of two streets of mean appearance ; therefore we will at once proceed to the castle, which is situated on a steep rocky hill in its immediate vicinity. I dare say Marion can tell us when this once mighty fortress is supposed to have been built, and some of the circumstances which led to the dreadful deed to which you have alluded.

MARION.

The erection of Corfe Castle has generally been ascribed to Edgar, the father and immediate predecessor of Edward the Martyr, as there is no authentic notice of it before that period. When Edgar died, he left two sons, Edward, the son of his first wife Elfreda, and Ethelred, the son of Elfrida who survived him. Edward, as the elder, succeeded to the throne, contrary to the wishes of Elfrida, who desired that distinction for her own son Ethelred, and at last accomplished her object by the assassination of her step-son Edward.

WILLIE.

Of course you are going to tell us all about it, Marion.

MARION.

It is my opinion, Willie, that you know all the particulars of that dreadful deed nearly as well as I do ; but I remember when I was your age I used to like to hear stories told over and over again, so I suppose I must indulge you. After Edgar's death, his widow Elfrida resided at Corfe Castle, and one day, as her son-in-law the king was hunting with some friends in a neighbouring forest, he determined to pay her a visit, and rode up to the castle gate unattended by any of his followers. The queen received him with much pretended hospitality and kindness, and begged him to enter and remain during the night ; but he declined to alight from his horse and merely begged a cup of wine to allay his thirst. This was quickly presented, but while he was putting the cup to his mouth a servant, who had been previously instructed by Elfrida, stabbed him in the back. On finding himself wounded he put spurs to his horse and endeavoured to regain his friends, but faint-

ing from the loss of blood, he fell from his horse, and was dragged along with one foot hanging in the stirrup till he died.

WILLIE.

What a wicked woman! I think pretending to be so kind made her conduct all the worse.

MRS. LESLIE.

I agree with you, my dear. Hypocrisy is one of the most hateful vices in the sight of God and man; and an open enemy is more to be desired than a treacherous friend.

HERBERT.

I have seen a print of the ruins of Corfe Castle, and a perfect scene of desolation they present; but yet the broken walls and tottering towers give one a grand idea of its original massiveness and strength. I believe it was dismantled during the civil wars?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; it was one of the few fortresses in Dorsetshire that held out for the king, and was for some time gallantly defended by Lady Banks, during the absence of her husband, Lord Chief Justice Sir John Banks; but at length the Parliamentarians gained possession of the fortress through the treachery of one of its officers, when it was almost immediately blown up by gunpowder, and reduced to a heap of ruins.

HERBERT.

Like most other ruinous old places, particularly those whose history is associated with deeds of blood, Corfe Castle was formerly regarded with superstitious awe, from the popular notion that it was haunted. It was affirmed, and that by credible eye-witnesses, that on dark winter nights gleams of light occasionally issued from the broken towers, and that spectral figures had been seen stealthily to glide among the ruins. Such and similar tales filled the minds of the ignorant peasantry with fear and consternation, and so general was the belief in those supernatural appearances, that only the most stout-hearted would venture in the neighbourhood of the ruins after nightfall. At length a party of revenue officers resolved to face the apparition; they proceeded

to the castle, and sure enough they found that the report of its being occupied by spirits was no idle fabrication.

KATE.

What can you mean, Herbert? Surely *you* do not believe in ghost stories?

HERBERT.

You may repress your astonishment, Katie. The spirits found in the castle were ardent spirits, brandy and Hollands, which had been deposited among the ruins by a band of smugglers, who, taking advantage of the fears and credulity of the simple inhabitants of the little town, had long been able to store away their contraband goods without fear of molestation. The lights and wandering figures were thus accounted for; and I believe that every similar story would, if thoroughly investigated, be found to have quite as natural a foundation.

MRS. LESLIE.

I perfectly agree with you, my dear. We have now, I think, mentioned most of the places of note in Dorsetshire. Somersetshire will be the next county for our consideration.

CONVERSATION XXXVIII.

SOMERSETSHIRE.

SUBJECTS :—Boundaries. — Size. — Early Inhabitants. — Conquest by Vespasian. — Stanton Drew. — Natural Features. — Mendip Hills. — Cheddar Cliffs. — Mineral Productions. — Cheddar Cheese. — Chief Rivers of County. — Ancient Capital. — City of Bath. — Roman Name. — Temperature of Hot Springs. — Magnificence of City. — Beauty of Situation. — Buildings compared to the Tiers of an Amphitheatre. — Former Gaieties and Frivolities. — Beau Nash. — Despotie Reign in World of Fashion. — Personal Appearance. — Decline of Popularity. — Striking Comment on the Declaration of Holy Writ. — Men whose Lives have conferred lasting Benefits on Posterity. — Present State of Bath. — Historical Recollections. — Abbey Church. — City of Wells. — Cathedral. — Union of the See of Bath and Wells. — Causes which led to it. — Taunton. — Historical Reminiscences. — Ancient Manufactures. — Present Importance. — Bridgewater. — Destruction of Castle during Civil Wars. — Monmouth's Troops encamped on Castle Field. — Fatal Engagement. — Admiral Blake. — War with Holland. — Van Trompe. — Defeat of English. — Dutch Admiral's Audacity. — Ultimate Victory of Blake. — Trade of Bridgewater. — Isle of Athelney. — Flight and Concealment of Alfred the Great. — Ascendency of Danae. — Final Overthrow. — Frome. — Selwood Forest. — Yeovil. — Weston-super-Mare. — Glastonbury Abbey. — Affirmed Antiquity. — Extraordinary Magnificence. — Amazing Wealth. — Holy Thorn. — Monkish Legend. — Beautiful Ruins. — Hospitality of Monks. — Dissolution of Abbey. — Tor Hill and other Relics of Monastic Times.

"WE shall soon have finished our conversations on England, mamma," observed Katie, while arranging her books and memoranda, preparatory to commencing that on Somersetshire; "I hope you will afterwards let us go through the counties of Wales?"

WILLIE.

Yes; and Scotland, and Ireland too, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

I shall have no objection, my dear children, if you have found your researches into England sufficiently interesting to make you wish to extend them farther. But now let us ascertain the boundaries and size of Somersetshire.

KATE.

Somersetshire is bounded on the north and north-west by the Bristol Channel, on the north-east by Gloucestershire, on the east by Wiltshire, on the south and south-east by Dorsetshire, and on the west and south-west by Devonshire. Its greatest length is about eighty miles, and its greatest breadth about forty miles.

HERBERT.

At the time of the Roman invasion, the Belgæ are thought to have been the principal inhabitants of this county, though two other tribes are supposed to have shared in its possession. On its conquest by Vespasian, it was included in the province of Britannia Prima, and during the Saxon heptarchy it belonged to the kingdom of Wessex.

MARION.

Somersetshire does not seem to possess so many memorials of the earliest ages as some other counties of England, but yet it has some remarkable monuments of antiquity. Stanton Drew, the supposed remains of a Druidical temple, about seven miles from Bristol, is one of the most celebrated; and although now greatly dilapidated, in consequence of so many of the stones having been broken up to repair the roads, is yet a remarkable-looking object.

HERBERT.

Though Somersetshire is not very extensively employed in agriculture, it nevertheless possesses *some* extremely fertile districts. The vale of Taunton, especially, is celebrated for the richness of its soil, and the luxuriance of its vegetation.

KATE.

This county possesses several ranges of hills, the most considerable of which are the Mendip Hills, extending for twenty-

five miles across the country. Do you know the height of those eminences, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

I believe in some places they rise to a height of nearly a thousand feet, but generally do not exceed six or seven hundred; they nevertheless possess peculiar attraction for tourists, from the beauty of their caves and cliffs.

KATE.

I suppose the most celebrated are the Cheddar Cliffs, are they not?

MRS. LESLIE.

They are, my dear, and I believe, for sublime and awful grandeur, they equal if not surpass any to be found in England. I remember some time ago reading an account of the rocky chasm from whence these cliffs arise, which almost made me shudder with the idea it gave me of its terrific origin. It is supposed that at an unknown period the rock must have been suddenly cleft asunder by some violent convulsion of nature, and thus formed this enormous gap, which extends for upwards of a mile, craggy conical rocks rising from it in the most grotesque and picturesque forms, and overhanging precipices appearing to threaten destruction to everything below. Near the entrance of this remarkable chasm, several streams arise and unite at above forty feet from their source, thus forming the river Cheddar, which supplies motive power to several corn and paper mills.

KATE.

It must be a magnificent scene! But is there anything remarkable in the caves, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

One in particular is of singular beauty, and contains a variety of curious spars and crystallisations. The mineral productions of the Mendips are coal and lead; but the mines are very unproductive, only 500 tons of lead being raised annually. The coal produce is returned with that of Gloucestershire and Devon. Somersetshire produces about 13,000 tons of iron ore per annum.

WILLIE.

Is Cheddar cheese made in this neighbourhood, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, Willie; at the little town of Cheddar, which is situated almost immediately under the south-western brow of the Mendip Hills. The vale abounds in luxuriant pasture lands, and is therefore peculiarly adapted to dairy produce. The real Cheddar cheese, from its superior quality, demands a high price in the market, but much that is made in other parts of the county is sold under the name of Cheddar cheese. Now tell me the principal rivers of Somersetshire.

WILLIE.

The Parret, the Thone, the Frome, the Avon, the Ivel, and the Cheddar.

MARION.

This county furnishes another instance of the change that has taken place in England since the commencement of its written history; the name Somersetshire, being derived from the little town of Somerton, which was the chief city of the county, at a time when its present capital, the magnificent city of Bath, was comparatively unknown.

KATE.

But Bath was a place of some importance in the time of the Romans, was it not, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Tradition ascribes its foundation to a period long before the Roman invasion; but the earliest authentic traces of its existence which we possess, do not go farther back than the reign of Vespasian, about the middle of the first century. The origin of the city is doubtless to be imputed to its hot springs, which must have possessed great attractions for the luxurious Romans. That they held the place in great repute is evident from their erection of the temple of Minerva, and the magnificent baths they constructed, as well as from the innumerable memorials of taste and refinement that have been discovered; but yet, as Marion justly

observes, even some centuries later it must have yielded in importance to the now comparatively insignificant town which gave the name to the county.

HERBERT.

There is something very expressive in the name the Romans gave to the city of Bath: *Aquæ Solis*, the "Waters of the Sun." The waters of the King's Bath, which are of the highest temperature, are about 117° of Fahrenheit. The Queen's Bath and the Cross Bath are several degrees lower. These hot springs, which are situated almost close together, are strongly impregnated with medicinal properties, and taken internally are very efficacious in the cure or relief of many disorders. Bathing in the waters is also considered very beneficial.

MARION.

What a magnificent place Bath is, mamma! It may well be called a "city of palaces," for its public buildings, hotels, and even private houses, are built upon a scale of magnificence which is said not to be equalled by any other place in England. I am sure I never saw a place where the buildings were so uniformly handsome.

MRS. LESLIE.

I agree with you, my dear, although my opportunities for observation and comparison have been so much greater than yours; and the attractiveness of Bath is greatly enhanced by the peculiar beauty of its situation.

KATE.

I remember, the first time I went to Bath, I was so much struck with the appearance of the streets; they are built one above another in such a curious manner. The ground-floors of the houses of some streets, are on a level with the roofs of those behind them!

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, it has a singular, but at the same time, a picturesque effect. The city of Bath has been compared to an amphitheatre, and I think not inaptly, for the lower part of the town may be sup-

posed to represent the arena, while the hills, upon which so many of the streets are built, rise one behind another, like the tiers of galleries provided for spectators.

WILLIE.

Bath is built upon the river Avon, is it not, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, upon the Lower Avon, as it is called, to distinguish it from the river of the same name in Warwickshire.

MARION.

I believe the city has somewhat declined of late years, as a fashionable watering-place?

MRS. LESLIE.

Its gaieties have declined with the last century; indeed, ever since the days of the celebrated Beau Nash, who died in 1761; and perhaps it scarcely retains its ancient reputation as the favourite resort of health or pleasure-seekers, so many other places having risen up in modern times to vie with it in attractions; but yet it is annually visited by multitudes of the *élite* of society.

KATE.

Who was Beau Nash, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

An individual who raised the city to its greatest height of fashion and frivolity, and who received his singular cognomen from his fastidiousness in dress, politeness, and etiquette. His real name was Richard Nash, and as his history conveys a useful lesson and salutary warning, it may be well for me to give you some particulars of his singular career.

KATE.

Yes, please do, mamma.

MRS. LESLIE.

He was a native of Swansea, in Glamorganshire, and his parents moved in a respectable station in life. He received a good educa-

tion at the grammar school of Carmarthen, from whence he was sent to Jesus College, Oxford, to study for the law; but early evincing a taste for gaiety and dissipation, he removed to the army, which also he soon quitted in disgust, and entered himself as a student in the Middle Temple. The dry study of the law, however, had no attraction for a person of his gay and volatile disposition; and having acquired some notoriety in consequence of the taste he displayed in the arrangement of a pageant on the accession of William of Orange to the English throne, he determined to visit Bath, which was just then coming into repute as the resort of wealth and fashion. His means of support at this period were chiefly derived from his successes at the gaming table, but he soon became conspicuous for his vivacity, elegance and taste; and the office of Master of the Ceremonies being vacant by the death of Captain Webster, Nash received the appointment, with unlimited authority to arrange the amusements, regulate the company, and prescribe every point of etiquette.

HERBERT.

He availed himself of the utmost extent of his prerogative, did he not?

MRS. LESLIE.

Indeed he did. No despotic monarch ever exercised more unbounded sway over his enslaved subjects, than did Beau Nash in the little world of fashion and folly over which he reigned. He was publicly distinguished by the title of the "King of Bath," and he took care that those who gave it him should bow to his authority. It is related, that on one occasion he required a noble duchess to make certain alterations in her dress, conformable to his notions of ball-room etiquette; and on another, that "he refused a request of the Princess Amelia, to have one dance more after eleven o'clock, by saying that the laws of Bath, like those of Lycurgus, were unalterable."

KATE.

But is it possible that the nobility submitted to one so greatly their inferior in birth and station?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, they invariably yielded to his decision, a course which was certainly commendable, for, if they exalted him to make rules for them, it was their duty to uphold him in the due observance of such rules. Laws of any kind, so long as they exist, cannot be too rigidly adhered to; and whatever were the faults of Nash as a man, the firmness and impartiality of his public character demand our admiration.

KATE.

I wonder whether his personal appearance was as attractive as his manners.

MRS. LESLIE.

I believe there was but little that was prepossessing, either in his face or figure; his features were harsh and irregular, and his form inelegant, defects which he endeavoured to counterbalance by the aid of dress. His clothes were profusely decorated with lace, and when he went abroad, he wore a large white hat, placed on one side, in the most conspicuous style. His equipage consisted of a chariot drawn by six grey horses, and he was always attended by out-riders, and a band of musicians playing on French horns.

KATE.

I declare he seems to have imitated royalty itself!

MARION.

I should rather compare his appearance and equipage to those of the proprietor of some travelling menagerie or circus! What person of rank would think of driving about the streets with a band of French horns playing before him?

KATE.

No one in our days certainly, Marion; but you know Queen Elizabeth, wherever she went, was attended by bands of music, and, for all we know to the contrary, the fashion might have continued a century later. But pray, mamma, tell us how long Beau Nash continued to enjoy the popular favour?

MRS. LESLIE.

Until he was old and grey-headed, Katie, and then his admirers one by one dropped off, and left him to spend the evening of his days in obscurity and sorrow, a melancholy instance of the fleeting nature of the friendship of the world, and of the unsatisfactory result of a life devoted to vanity and folly. The man who makes pleasure his idol, whose life is passed amid scenes of vice and dissipation, whose whole aim is the gratification of the passing hour, cannot have much to fall back upon when sickness and decrepitude interfere with his enjoyments. Such a life may be compared, in the graphic language of Scripture, to "the crackling of thorns under a pot;" its blaze is soon extinguished, its last faint gleams of brightness quickly pass away, and then all is darkness and desolation. The life of Beau Nash was lengthened out to fourscore years and eight, and though he had been neglected in his latter years, his remains were interred with much pomp and solemnity in the Abbey Church, and a monument erected to his memory at the expense of the corporation.

HERBERT.

No doubt he did a great deal of good for Bath by increasing its attractions, and thus adding to the number of its visitors.

MRS. LESLIE.

It is not to be denied that his exertions, in providing for the follies of the great, gave an impetus to the trade of the place; but you know it is a high authority that warns us against doing evil that good may come. The incidental good resulting from the influx of visitors, I fear, was not to be compared with the moral evil which extensively prevailed. At that period Bath was not only thronged by the devotees of folly and fashion, but, as might be expected, was the haunt of swindlers, and all such characters as lived by their wits and their vices. The gaming-houses were nightly crowded, Beau Nash himself being one of their principal supporters. How much more worthy of regard and imitation are the lives of such men as Wedgewood, Arkwright, and Watt, whose well-directed energies and talents have conferred lasting benefit upon their fellow-men!

MARION.

I see the population of Bath, which, in 1851, was 54,240, has considerably increased during the last twenty years; therefore, notwithstanding the decline of its gaities, it must be in a flourishing state.

MRS. LESLIE.

Population is not always a criterion, my dear. Some of the most densely peopled districts are the abodes of squalid poverty and wretchedness, and from these even the magnificent city of Bath is not exempt. Taken as a whole, it is, however, by far the most delightful city in the west of England, and by no means deficient in sources of recreation, though its amusements have assumed a more rational and intellectual tone.

WILLIE.

Has Bath been a noted place in history, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

It shared in the calamities of the civil wars of Charles the First, and also in those occasioned by the Duke of Monmouth's rebellion, when six persons were put to death by the order of Judge Jeffreys. At a later period it took part in the rebellion of the Pretender, but I do not remember any other events of historical interest with which it has been associated.

KATE.

Of course we must notice the ancient abbey church, mamma.

MRS. LESLIE.

We may so far notice that beautiful edifice as to correct the impression you seem to have of its antiquity. It is in fact but little more than 250 years old, its ancient appearance being caused by the crumbling nature of the stone of which it is constructed. Time forbids us to enter upon its history, but I may observe that it has been called "The Lantern of England," from the number and size of its windows, and the general lightness of its appearance.

MARION.

I have been much struck with that peculiarity myself, mamma. It is so different to the sombre aspect of all the cathedrals that I have

seen, but I do not know that I like it any the better for its brightness.

HERBERT.

I suppose, Marion, you imagine that the "dim religious light" is an aid to your devotion.

MRS. LESLIE.

I trust, my dear children, you are both too well instructed in the sacred Scriptures to believe that any such extraneous influences can affect the heart, however they may act upon the feelings. But we must proceed to notice the next place of importance in Somersetshire.

KATE.

We have already noticed Bristol, which is partly in this county and partly in Gloucestershire; therefore, I suppose, the next place is the city of Wells, though it is much smaller than many of the towns.

MRS. LESLIE.

Never mind its size, Katie; its rank as a city and bishop's see is sufficient to establish its title to priority. What information can you give respecting it?

KATE.

It is situated in a valley at the foot of the Mendip Hills, near the source of the river Ax, and receives its name from a remarkable spring, which rises in the immediate vicinity, called St. Andrew's Well. The city, which owes its origin to a collegiate church founded by king Ina, is well built, and many of the houses are handsome modern structures; but of course the cathedral is the principal object of attraction. The population of Wells is nearly 5000.

HERBERT.

The cathedral of Wells appears to rank among the most magnificent of our ecclesiastical edifices. The greater part was built in the reign of Henry the Third by Bishop Joceline de Welles, but the towers are the work of a later date. The edifice is elaborately adorned with sculpture, and the Lady Chapel is said to be one of the most beautiful specimens of ecclesiastical architecture to be found in England.

KATE.

I have heard of the Bishop of Bath and Wells. Are both those places included in the same diocese ?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, and I will tell you the cause which led to their union. In the reign of William Rufus, a physician of Bath, named John de Villula, a native of Tours in France, having amassed a fortune, purchased the see of Wells of the rapacious king, who you remember never scrupled to enrich himself with the revenues of the Church whenever opportunity offered. On De Villula's elevation to the bishopric, so far from doing anything for the improvement of his church, he neglected it altogether, and turned all his attention to the ecclesiastical advancement of Bath, to which place he removed the episcopal seat. This proceeding, as may naturally be supposed, gave great offence to the canons of the church and the lay inhabitants of Wells, which was further increased by De Villula styling himself Bishop of Bath, without any recognition of the superior claim of Wells to the title. The contention thus commenced lasted throughout the life-time of De Villula, and was at length terminated by his successor, Bishop Robert, who ordained that the diocesan should in future be elected by an equal number of delegates from both churches, and should be called Bishop of Bath and Wells.

KATE.

I think that was a very wise arrangement ; for if he had restored the ecclesiastical dignity to Wells, to the entire exclusion of Bath, no doubt the people of Bath would have been offended.

MARION.

Taunton is a handsome town of Somersetshire, delightfully situated on the river Thone, from whence its ancient name, Thoneton, was received. It is a place of great antiquity, and is supposed to have been built upon the site of a Roman station, as numerous Roman antiquities have been discovered in the neighbourhood. During the Saxon government of England, Thoneton was a place of much importance, and was the residence of Ina, one of the most celebrated of the West-Saxon kings.

KATE.

During the civil wars of Charles the First, Taunton sustained a memorable siege, and was defended with undaunted bravery by Colonel, afterwards Admiral, Blake, who held the garrison for the Parliament until relieved by Fairfax after the battle of Naseby. His valour on that occasion was so great that he received the public thanks of Parliament for his services.

HERBERT.

I am always pleased to meet with any notice of that gallant admiral, though in this case I should rather have seen him on the other side.

MRS. LESLIE.

You will then be glad to hear that, so far from being a party to Charles's execution, he was deeply grieved at the event; for though he had felt it his duty to oppose his sovereign, he was heard to declare that he would as freely lay down his life to save that of the king as he had risked it in the cause of freedom.

KATE.

Was not Admiral Blake a native of this county?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, Katie; of Bridgewater, the next town for us to notice.

KATE.

But we have not done with Taunton yet, mamma. Since our last conversation I have been reading an account of the Duke of Monmouth's rebellion, and I find that this town was one of the places that most warmly espoused his cause. On his arrival here from Axminster, he was received with the utmost enthusiasm, and people of all ages and both sexes gladly bade him welcome. After his defeat and execution, they had, however, to suffer the utmost rigour of the law for their devotion to his cause, and many were cruelly put to death by order of Judge Jeffreys.

MARION.

Taunton was formerly celebrated for the woollen manufacture, I believe.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, and subsequently for the silk trade ; but both have now declined. The glove manufacture to a limited extent is carried on ; but the present prosperity of Taunton is to be chiefly ascribed to its position in the centre of a rich agricultural district, whose fertile valleys teem with abundance on every side. The population of Taunton is over 14,000.

MARION.

Bridgewater is a flourishing port on the bank of the Parret, the most important river in the county. The place was anciently called Burgh Walter, and it is supposed to have received that name from its having belonged to Walter de Doway, a Norman soldier, on whom William the Conqueror bestowed large possessions in this part of the country. During the wars between Charles the First and the Parliament, Bridgewater was besieged by Sir Thomas Fairfax, and a considerable part of the town was burnt to the ground. The castle was also dismantled, and property to a large amount was carried off by the Parliamentarians.

HERBERT.

The castle field is memorable in history as the place where the Duke of Monmouth encamped his undisciplined troops previously to the fatal battle of Sedgemoor. After reviewing his own force, which consisted principally of ploughmen and colliers, he took his post upon the tower of the parish church, and with a glass reconnoitred the encampments of the enemy. The survey convinced him that an open attack would be attended with the greatest danger, but he resolved to run the hazard of a charge made under cover of the night. Shortly after midnight, on the morning of Monday the 6th of July, Monmouth marched his army towards Sedgemoor, but intelligence of his design having reached the royal troops they were prepared to meet him, and the rebel army was entirely overthrown. A thousand of the insurgents were slain upon the field of battle, and their leader only escaped to suffer a more ignominious death.

WILLIE.

Now, mamma, I hope you are going to tell us something about Admiral Blake.

MRS. LESLIE.

There is little, I believe, worthy of note connected with his early history. He was born at Bridgewater in 1599, and educated at Wadham College, Oxford. We have already seen that he distinguished himself in the wars of Charles the First. At the siege of Bristol his valour nearly cost him his life, for Prince Rupert, one of Charles's generals, was so exasperated by his continuing to defend a fort after the surrender of the city, that he was with difficulty dissuaded from having him put to death.

HERBERT.

Blake was somewhat past middle age before he achieved any naval victories, I believe.

MRS. LESLIE.

He was fifty years old before he was appointed to a command at sea. His first expedition was against his old enemy Prince Rupert, who, on the downfall of Charles, attempted to escape from the country with his little fleet. Blake pursued him from Kinsale in Ireland to the Mediterranean, and came up with him on the coast of Spain, where he destroyed nearly all his ships.

HERBERT.

The naval ability of Blake must have been severely tested in the terrible engagements he had with that powerful and insolent Dutch admiral, Van Tromp.

MRS. LESLIE.

It must, indeed. At the commencement of the memorable war with Holland, in 1652, Blake was invested with the sole command of the fleet, which, however, only consisted of twenty-six ships, while Van Tromp sailed into the Channel with forty-five men-of-war. With a force so unequal, victory on the part of the English seemed impossible; yet, after a conflict which lasted several hours, the Dutch were compelled to retreat with a loss of two of their ships. In the next engagement, Van Tromp's fleet consisted of eighty ships, while Blake had scarcely more than half that number, and, as might naturally have been expected, the gallant English admiral suffered the mortification of a defeat.

WILLIE.

What did Herbert mean, mamma, when he called Van Tromp an insolent Dutch admiral?

MRS. LESLIE.

After Van Tromp's defeat of the English, which I have just related, he sailed along the Channel with a broom fastened to his main top-mast, to signify that he had swept the sea of British ships.

HERBERT.

A pretty piece of impudence, indeed! He had to pay dearly for it, though, for, about three months after, Blake again encountered him with a more equal armament, and after a desperate engagement, which lasted for three days, the Dutch were driven back with the loss of eleven ships, while the English lost but one.

WILLIE.

I should think that taught the Dutchman better manners for the future! But did he come again, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, my dear, several other engagements followed; and in one which took place off the Foreland, on the 3rd of June, the Dutch were completely defeated, and obliged to flee for refuge to the Calais sands. Peace, however, was not formally concluded until the 5th of April of the following year.

KATE.

I think it was Blake who should have adopted the ensign of the broom!

WILLIE.

Was he present in any sea-fight afterwards, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; he distinguished himself in the Mediterranean, against the Bey of Tunis, who had provoked a quarrel with England, by refusing to deliver up some English captives; and he also engaged in an expedition against Santa Cruz, in Teneriffe, which was attended with his usual success. This was the last service he rendered to his country. His health had for some time been de-

clining, and the fondest wish of his heart being once more to visit his native land, he set sail for England, but expired just as he was entering Plymouth Sound, August 27th, 1657.

MARION.

I suppose the trade of Bridgewater is principally derived from its port ?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, it carries on an extensive foreign trade ; but it is also famous for the production of a little article very necessary for domestic cleanliness, I mean Bath bricks, with which knives and forks are cleaned. These bricks are made from a peculiar deposit of the river Parret, which is found nowhere else in the world, and yet the bricks are used as extensively in most other countries, as our own. Bridgewater produces upwards of eight millions annually, and their manufacture is a source of considerable wealth to the town.

WILLIE.

Mamma, I have looked all over the map of Somersetshire, for the Isle of Athelney, where Alfred the Great concealed himself when he fled from the Danes, but I cannot find it.

MRS. LESLIE.

It is a pity that you should have looked so far, Willie, because if you remember, the little isle was situated just where the rivers Thone and Parret meet. Perhaps it is not mentioned in your map, but here it is, you see, marked plain enough upon this ancient chart.

WILLIE.

But, mamma, there is nothing there at all like an island.

MRS. LESLIE.

Not like an island of the sea, certainly ; for the Isle of Athelney, like some other islands we have noticed, was only formed by surrounding bogs and marshes. The solid ground, which was but two acres in extent, was only accessible by a boat, except in the very height of summer, when the marshes were occasionally fordable. In this secluded retreat, Alfred concealed himself from

Easter to Whitsuntide, in the year 878, while the Danes overran and plundered his kingdom, from one end to the other.

WILLIE.

I cannot think how it was that Alfred, who was generally so brave, came to run away from the Danes and hide himself.

MRS. LESLIE.

The necessity for such an ignoble step was no doubt one of the greatest trials his gallant spirit ever had to endure ; and, notwithstanding the desperate nature of the case, if he had followed his own inclinations, he would have remained at his post, and in all probability have perished ; but, yielding to the entreaties of a few faithful followers, he disguised himself in the habit of a peasant, and provided for his safety by flight and concealment.

KATE.

Of course, mamma, Willie wants to hear the anecdote about Alfred and the cakes.

WILLIE.

Indeed, I am not such a baby, Katie. I know that story well enough. Never mind the cakes, mamma, but please to tell me how Alfred and his old enemies got on afterwards.

MRS. LESLIE.

During the king's abode at Athelney, he and his adherents occasionally made sallies from their hiding-place, and attacked and overpowered such bodies of the Danes as they came upon unawares. At length, Alfred's retreat became known to his friends, who were scattered in different parts, and rallying round their sovereign, they revived his drooping spirits, at the same time that they increased and strengthened his little band. He raised a fort upon the island, and erected a bridge over the marsh, by which communication with the surrounding country was more easily obtained, and at last boldly marched from his retirement, and encountered the Danes near Westbury, in Wiltshire, having first obtained accurate knowledge of their true position by a visit, in the disguise of a minstrel, to the Danish camp. A desperate en-

gement ensued, the Danes were overthrown with great slaughter, and Alfred was re-established on his throne.

WILLIE.

If ever I should go into that part of Somersetshire, I will pay a visit to the little Isle of Athelney, even if I have to wade through the water to get there.

MRS. LESLIE.

You would be under no such disagreeable necessity, Willie ; for the marshes were thoroughly drained many years ago, and the island is now only such in name. Pleasant corn-fields and pasture lands occupy the place of the once stagnant morass, the scene of the great Alfred's utmost depression.

KATE.

Did not Alfred afterwards erect a monastery upon the little island which had afforded him shelter from his enemies ?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, my dear ; and it was partially rebuilt in 1321, but not the least vestige of it now remains. You may now, Willie, mention some other towns of Somersetshire.

WILLIE.

Frome, Yeovil, and Weston-super-Mare.

MARION.

Frome is a large market town, situated on a hill close to the river Frome, from which it takes its name. It was formerly much celebrated for the manufacture of fine woollen cloths and kersey-meres, but the trade has declined of late years. Its population is about 10,000.

MRS. LESLIE.

A century ago, the neighbourhood of Frome was almost impassable after night-fall, from a notorious band of robbers which infested it. Selwood Forest, a district formerly fifteen miles in extent, was the usual haunt of those marauders, from whence they issued to waylay and plunder unwary travellers. Thanks to the improvement in our laws, and the establishment of our rural police,

travellers may now pass from one part of England to another, without much fear of an adventure with highwaymen. And now, Willie, can you tell me for what the town of Yeovil is famous?

WILLIE.

For gloves, is it not, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, it is the centre of a district whose inhabitants are extensively employed in the manufacture of the finer kinds of gloves, as well as those worn by soldiers. The neighbourhood of Yeovil also sends large quantities of butter to the London markets, which is sold under the name of Dorset butter.

MARION.

Weston-super-Mare is a much frequented watering-place, situated near Uphill Bay, in the Bristol Channel. It is much resorted to by visitors from Bristol, from which it is only twenty miles distant. Its resident population has greatly increased during the last twenty years.

MRS. LESLIE.

During our researches into the past state of England, we have had ample evidence of the enormous wealth which belonged to its ecclesiastical establishments, during the dominion of the Roman Catholic hierarchy; but there was an abbey in this county which, with the exception of that of Westminster, surpassed every other in England, in the extent of its revenues. I need scarcely say, I mean Glastonbury Abbey.

HERBERT.

And in point of antiquity it entirely exceeded every other, for it is said to have been the first Christian church in the island, founded, as monkish annalists assert, by Joseph of Arimathea, about thirty-one years after the death of Christ.

MRS. LESLIE.

Such an origin is certainly not absolutely impossible, however improbable it may appear; but by whomsoever founded, ancient historians agree that a little church, built of reeds and plaited

twigs, existed there at a very early period. After that and subsequent edifices had fallen to decay, a magnificent and stately abbey was built by Ina, king of the West Saxons. Some idea of the splendour of the building may be formed from the decorations of the interior of the chapel, Collinson, quoting from an ancient record, states that, "it was garnished and plated over with 2640 pounds weight of silver, and an altar with 240 pounds weight of gold." Besides which, the furniture was said to be of incredible value, and the vestments of the ecclesiastics were adorned with precious stones. Ina also enriched the abbey with a vast extent of territory, and distinguished it by some extraordinary privileges and immunities, among which was its exemption from all episcopal authority.

MARION.

The haughty Dunstan was an abbot of Glastonbury, was he not, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, my dear, for twenty-two years, during which he rebuilt the abbey with great splendour, that erected by Ina having been almost destroyed by the dreadful depredations of the Danes. It would take far more time than we have to spare this morning, and be a tedious task besides, were we to attempt to enumerate the sources from whence the enormous revenues of this abbey were derived; but Dugdale states that the estates formerly held by it now produce annually about 300,000*l*.

HERBERT.

And then you know, mamma, there must also have been the wealth accumulated by the donations of pilgrims, added to that derived from the sale of sprigs of the "Holy Thorn."

KATE.

Sprigs of the holy thorn, Herbert! What monkish tradition have you got hold of?

HERBERT.

One that was commonly believed in England for several centuries, and the subject of which was held in high estimation long

after the days of monkish superstition had passed away. It is said that when Joseph of Arimathea, or St. Joseph, as he is called by monkish writers, first visited this spot with the twelve companions who accompanied him on his pious mission, being weary with his journey, he sat down to rest on a hill near the town, which, from the circumstance, received the name of Weary-all-Hill, and while he rested he stuck his staff, a dry hawthorn one, into the earth, when it immediately took root and grew, and ever after blossomed on Christmas-day. Sprigs of this miraculous thorn, as it was believed to be, were so much in request, that it is said the Bristol merchants made quite a traffic of them by exporting them to other countries.

KATE.

I cannot think how people could be so credulous ; but I suppose Glastonbury possessed some wonderful thorn that gave rise to the story.

MRS. LESLIE.

A beautiful specimen of the *Cratægus monogyna*, or common hawthorn, which, in favourable situations, blossoms in the winter, formerly grew on the hill. It is believed to have been originally brought from Palestine by the crusaders, and presented to the monks of Glastonbury, who, no doubt, invented the story of its having sprung from St. Joseph's staff, in order to invest it with a sanctity which would be very beneficial to their coffers. A thorn of the same species may still be seen in the gardens of the neighbourhood, regularly blossoming about the time of Christmas.

WILLIE.

I suppose there are some fine ruins of the old abbey, mamma ?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes ; enough remains to give one some idea of its former magnificence. The ruins consist principally of St. Joseph's Chapel, and the Abbot's kitchen ; the latter is in very good preservation, and contains four fireplaces, sixteen feet long.

KATE.

That looks as if the monks took care to enjoy the good things of this life, at any rate !

MRS. LESLIE.

You must not imagine that those extensive hearths were used for the cooking required in the establishment alone. Multitudes of the poor and destitute were fed at the adjoining almonry, to which they were summoned by a bell suspended from a pyramid in the roof of the abbot's kitchen. Whatever were the vices of the monks, hospitality, at least, ranked high among their virtues.

KATE.

I suppose this magnificent abbey shared the same fate as the rest of the monastic houses of England, at the Reformation ?

MRS. LESLIE.

You are right. Its possessions were coveted by Henry the Eighth, who resolved on its suppression ; and when its abbot, Richard Whiting, refused to give it up, he was dragged on a hurdle to a neighbouring hill, where he was hanged with two of his monks.

HERBERT.

The neighbourhood of Glastonbury abounds with relics of monastic times. The Tor hill, an eminence to the north-east of the abbey, still possesses a ruined tower, the remains of a church and monastery, dedicated to St. Michael ; the George inn was formerly an hostel for the entertainment of pilgrims who resorted to St. Joseph's shrine ; and many of the houses are built or repaired with the stones of the ruined abbey.

MARION.

It is very interesting to notice these relics of ancient times ; but the more I hear of the impositions that were practised by the Church of Rome, the more thankful I feel for the establishment of the pure Protestant religion of our country.

MRS. LESLIE.

Indeed it is a blessing which demands our heartfelt gratitude. We have had a long conversation this morning ; Devonshire is the next county for investigation.

CONVERSATION XXXIX.



DEVONSHIRE.

SUBJECTS: — Beauty of Climate. — Boundaries of County. — Size. — Ancient Inhabitants. — Traces of Romans. — Former Value of Tin Mines. — Present Produce. — Stannary Courts. — Natural Features and Productions. — Mineral Wealth. — Dartmoor Forest. — Devonshire “Tors.” — Exeter. — Historical Recollections. — Expedition of the Prince of Orange. — Blessings derived from the glorious Revolution. — Situation of Exeter. — Cathedral. — Plymouth. — Ancient State. — Plymouth Sound. — Plymouth Breakwater. — Devonport. — Royal Dockyard. — Great Western Docks. — East Stonehouse. — Eddystone Lighthouse. — Fate of previous Structures. — Peculiarity of Construction of present Edifice. — Isolated Situation of Lighthouse Keepers. — Necessity for Divine Support. — Barnstaple. — Ancient and present Manufactures. — Tiverton. — Former manufacturing Importance. — Tavistock. — Extensive Mines. — Honiton. — Lace Manufacture. — Torquay. — Mildness of Climate. — Kent’s Cavern. — Torbay. — Brixham. — Landing Place of Prince of Orange. — Commercial Importance. — Celebrated Watering-Places.

“WHAT a delightful county Devonshire must be, mamma!” exclaimed Katie Leslie. “Our old friend Mr. P——, who lived in it many years, told me yesterday that citrons, oranges, and lemons will grow in the open air, and that in the valleys of the south, the myrtle flourishes unsheltered during the winter.”

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; the climate of south Devonshire is peculiarly soft and mild and in some respects is considered preferable to that of Lisbon or the south of France. The scenery, too, is highly picturesque, and it is one of the richest counties in England in natural productions.

But before we enter into particulars, Willie had better tell us how this lovely county is bounded.

WILLIE.

Devonshire is bounded on the north and north-west by the Bristol Channel, on the north-east by Somersetshire, on the east by Dorsetshire, on the south and south-east by the English Channel, and on the west by Cornwall. It is about seventy miles long and sixty-eight broad.

HERBERT.

The earliest history of this county appears to be very vague and unsatisfactory. Historians agree that the first inhabitants of whom there is any account were the Damnonii, a people so called from the physical character of the district they inhabited, the word being supposed to signify "Hills of tin mines;" but whether this tribe was of Belgic or Celtic origin is a point involved in great uncertainty. There are no authentic details of the conquest of this district by the Romans, although its ancient encampments, some of which are evidently Roman, afford conclusive evidence of its having been the scene of early conflict. On the Roman division of Britain, Devonshire was included in the province of Britannia Prima, and during the Saxon Heptarchy it formed part of the kingdom of Wessex.

KATE.

I never heard of Devonshire possessing tin mines. I thought tin was procured almost exclusively from Cornwall.

MRS. LESLIE.

It is at the present time, but at one period the tin mines of Devonshire were very valuable and productive. In the reign of John they annually produced a larger amount of tin than those of Cornwall, but now they yield less than a seventieth part of the quantity procured from the latter county. The extent to which the tin works of Devonshire were formerly carried on may be estimated by the existence of its "stannary courts," of which there are no less than four, Plymton, Tavistock, Ashburton, and Chag-

ford. The total produce of the tin mines of Devonshire in 1856 was but 136 tons, worth nearly 10,000*l*.

WILLIE.

What are stannary courts, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Courts established for the purpose of making laws and regulations for the workers in tin mines or "stannaries," as they are called. I will tell you more about them when we come to notice Cornwall. Herbert will now give us some information relative to the natural features and productions of Devonshire.

HERBERT.

The county is everywhere pleasingly diversified by hill and dale, wood and water, which combine to form some of the most picturesque landscapes to be found in England. Slate, freestone, pipe-clay, flint, feldspar, marble, and granite, are found in great abundance. Tin, lead, copper, zinc, and silver are the principal mineral productions of the county. The total amount of lead procured from the mines of Devonshire in 1856 was 2000 tons, of silver above 77,000 ounces, of copper 2500 tons, and of zinc 660 tons.

WILLIE.

Devonshire is also famous for cider and delicious clouted cream, you know, mamma.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, the cider of Devonshire is considered superior to that of any other district of England, and its dairy produce is held in the highest estimation, the degree of excellence being in a great measure attributable to the fine climate and rich soil of the numerous valleys of the county. Something like four-fifths of the cultivated soil consists of meadow land, and hence butter, cheese, and cattle form the principal part of its agricultural productions.

HERBERT.

Notwithstanding the general fertility, Devonshire possesses some barren districts and vast wastes, the most considerable being the elevated region of Dartmoor, the highest part of which rises to a

height of 1792 feet. This district, which is known by the general name of Dartmoor Forest, has been estimated at 100,000 acres in extent. It abounds in granite, immense quantities of which are quarried and sent to London and other places for building purposes. The Dartmoor granite is also valuable for the beauty of its felspar crystals, which are used in the manufacture of fine porcelain.

MARION.

I think Dartmoor can hardly be called a "waste" and a "barren district," Herbert.

HERBERT.

You know, my dear sister, I was speaking of it in an agricultural point of view, and to substantiate my statement in that respect, I will read you an extract from a work by Dr. Berger. In speaking of this district he says, "There is neither vegetation nor any human dwelling, we tread upon a boggy soil of very little depth, and scarcely affording sufficient food to support some dwarf colts, as wild as the country they inhabit." Some parts of this vast tract of land, however, are well adapted for the pasturage of sheep.

MARION.

Are not the Devonshire "Tors" in this part of the county, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, my dear, those huge detached masses of granite are scattered all over, and give a very singular appearance to, this uncultivated moor. Unlike some of the extraordinary formations that are to be found in neighbouring counties, they are believed to be entirely natural objects, occupying the same position in which they were placed by the Great Creator of the universe, their grotesque appearance arising from the effects of time, and the action of the elements, rather than the innovating hand of man. Katie may now mention some of the numerous rivers by which Devonshire is watered.

KATE.

The Ex, the Culme, the Torridge, the Taw, the Dart, the Teign, and several other smaller rivers, flow through the county.

WILLIE.

Exeter, on the river Ex, is the capital of Devonshire. Do you know whether it is a very ancient place, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

I think there is but little doubt that it was peopled by the ancient Britons long before the invasion of the Romans, and after the conquest of our island, it is believed to have been occupied as an important Roman station. During the Saxon government of England it was distinguished for the number of its monastic houses, in consequence of which it received the name of Monkton, but having been a fortified post of the Romans, it was also called Exoncaestre, from whence we have the modern Exeter.

HERBERT.

This city has several times experienced the calamities of a siege. After recovering from the continued depredations of the Danes, it was besieged by William the Conqueror, in consequence of an attempt of the inhabitants to resist his authority; but it was quickly compelled to surrender and yield submission to the Norman king. It was also besieged by Perkin Warbeck in his attempt to gain the English crown, but the gallant resistance of the citizens, under the command of the Earl of Devonshire, compelled Warbeck to retreat. The most memorable investment of the city, however, took place in the reign of Edward the Sixth, by a body of insurgents, who took up arms in consequence of the alteration which was made in the prescribed services of the Church. In this disastrous siege, which lasted five and thirty days, the inhabitants were reduced to the greatest extremities for want of provisions, and were compelled to satisfy the cravings of hunger with horseflesh and other disgusting food.

KATE.

I suppose in the wars of Charles the First the citizens of Exeter were staunch royalists, for you know, mamma, the queen sought refuge there when the dislike of the people made it dangerous for her to stay at Abingdon or Oxford.

MRS. LESLIE.

I believe the ascendancy was sometimes in favour of one party, and sometimes of the other, and the queen was very glad to escape to France shortly after the birth of her youngest child, the Princess Henrietta, who was born during her sojourn in the city.

KATE.

Yes, I know, mamma, and she left her poor little baby behind her. I never feel half as much sympathy for her as I do for the king, because she seemed to think so much more of her own safety and comfort than of anything besides.

HERBERT.

The citizens of Exeter took a very active part in the Duke of Monmouth's rebellion, and three years later manifested their detestation of popery, and their increased disaffection to James the Second, by enthusiastically flocking to the standard of the Prince of Orange.

KATE.

I should have thought that the sad consequences of Monmouth's rebellion and defeat would have been sufficient to deter any one from another attempt to overthrow the government.

MRS. LESLIE.

The enterprise of William, Prince of Orange, was undertaken with much greater chances of success than those which attended the rash adventure of the Duke of Monmouth. William was a politic and judicious statesman, and his expedition was the result not only of earnest solicitation from the English, but of calm deliberation on the part of himself and his advisers. It had been preceded by months of active preparation, and provided for by an almost unlimited command of funds, his own resources being constantly augmented by offers of assistance from neighbouring sovereigns. Instead of the three ships and the handful of men that accompanied Monmouth in his expedition, the armament of the Prince of Orange was one of the most efficient that ever swept the British seas. It consisted of 600 ships and several thousand men. In lieu of the raw recruits that composed the bulk of Monmouth's army, the

forces of William comprised some of the most distinguished warriors of Continental Europe — men no less renowned for statesmanlike abilities than for military prowess. Monmouth, you remember, was compelled to restrict the number of his volunteers, from his inability to supply them with arms and ammunition, while William left Holland equipped with artillery on the grandest scale, and every appliance for action, either by sea or land. In short, their qualifications for the enterprise were as dissimilar as the result of their expeditions. You know, of course, Katie, how the invasion of the Prince of Orange ended?

KATE.

Oh yes, mamma! James was compelled to abdicate the throne, and the Prince of Orange, who was married to James's eldest daughter, succeeded him as William the Third, or rather the Prince and Princess of Orange (for it was agreed that they should jointly govern the kingdom,) ascended the throne as William and Mary.

MARION.

I believe England dates many of her blessings from that important epoch in her history.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, she had long groaned under the tyranny and despotism of her sovereigns, and when, by the unanimous voice of the people, William of Orange was hailed as her deliverer, and called to ascend her throne, care was taken that the royal prerogative should be circumscribed and clearly defined. He was pledged to govern the kingdom according to the laws laid down in the famous Declaration of Right, a deed prepared at this time to confirm the ancient liberties of Magna Charta, which had been almost ignored by the House of Stuart. To the memorable revolution that then took place, we owe the establishment of our present glorious constitution, the foundation of our present laws, and the civil and religious freedom, which is an Englishman's greatest boast and highest privilege. But it is time for us to return to Exeter.

KATE.

Exeter is a fine old city, pleasantly situated on the river Ex, but its position has at times exposed it to serious inundations, by which property to a large amount has been sacrificed. Its trade is considerable, and its population is nearly 33,000. The houses and public buildings of Exeter have greatly improved in modern times, but the cathedral is still its chief architectural attraction.

HERBERT.

I do not admire the exterior of Exeter Cathedral so much as many other of our ecclesiastical structures. The west-front, though most elaborately decorated, is built in a peculiar style, and surmounted by a gable which I think detracts from its beauty and ecclesiastical character. It is, nevertheless, a grand and massive edifice, and many parts of the interior are strikingly magnificent. Its organ is one of the finest in the world, and its great bell is the largest in England, except "Great Tom," of Oxford.

MARION.

The sea-port town of Plymouth is the next place which claims our notice. It is situated at the mouth of the river Plym, which falls into the celebrated bay, known as Plymouth Sound. This large maritime town, which now carries on an extensive trade with the West Indies, the Mediterranean, and the Baltic, and contains upwards of 52,000 inhabitants, was originally the solitary abode of fishermen and "wreckers," the latter of whom often reaped a golden harvest from the plunder of the numerous vessels which were dashed upon their coast.

WILLIE.

Is Plymouth Sound more dangerous than other places, then, mamma ?

MRS. LESLIE.

The whole of the south-western coast of England is full of dangerous rocks, but Plymouth Sound and Torbay are spots that have been peculiarly fatal to mariners, from the heavy swells that roll into them from the south, by which many a noble ship

has been driven on to the rocky shore and dashed to pieces. If you were to visit the grave-yards of the neighbouring churches, you might read many a touching tale of husbands, fathers, brothers, who had been preserved through the perils of a long sea-voyage, and at last perished almost in sight of home.

WILLIE.

Oh! dear mamma, how very shocking; I dare say they thought themselves safe enough when they got in sight of land.

MRS. LESLIE.

Not if they were experienced sailors, Willie. Such would know that though their vessel might withstand the fury of the winds and waves upon the broad bosom of the vast Atlantic, it would inevitably be shattered to pieces if driven upon a rocky coast. The perils of Plymouth Sound are now happily greatly diminished by that wonderful work of art the Plymouth Breakwater, which is capable of affording shelter and security to between two and three hundred vessels at a time.

HERBERT.

The Plymouth Breakwater was commenced at the beginning of the present century, was it not?

MRS. LESLIE.

The foundation stone, which was of immense magnitude and weighed several tons, was plunged into the sea on the 12th of August, 1812. The attention of the government had long been directed to the necessity for rendering the Sound a safe anchorage road for shipping, and after much deliberation on the various plans proposed by eminent engineers, the present breakwater, as designed by Messrs. Rennie and Whidbey, was finally determined on, and some limestone quarries in the immediate vicinity were purchased of the Duke of Bedford, for the supply of the materials required for its construction. We may form some idea of the herculean nature of the undertaking, from the fact that upwards of seven months elapsed from the discharge of the first stone into the sea, before

the tops of the stones began to be visible at low water, although they were thrown in at the rate of 15,000 tons a week. It now gradually rises from the sea, sloping upwards like a beach, to a height of 35 feet. It is upwards of 400 feet broad at the base and 45 feet at the top; and stretches out across the sound nearly a mile in length. At the western end is a lighthouse 59 feet high.

HERBERT.

The accomplishment of such a work appears absolutely astonishing, exposed as it was to the fury of the elements during its construction. I believe it had some fearful storms to contend with.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; in 1817, and again in 1824, the structure, so far as it was then advanced, was severely injured by the violence of terrific hurricanes; but notwithstanding all perils and discouragements, the work was nobly persevered in, and it now stands a glorious monument of scientific skill, and an efficient shelter to the tempest-tossed mariner.

KATE.

I had no idea until preparing for this conversation, that Plymouth Dock was formerly the name of the town now called Devonport. I thought, of course, that it was applied to that celebrated dockyard only.

MRS. LESLIE.

Plymouth dockyard, which was commenced in the reign of William the Third, and is now the finest in the world with the exception of Portsmouth, is situated about a mile and a half from the ancient town. To meet the wants of the numerous persons to whom it gave employment, a town soon sprang up around it, which was long called Plymouth Dock, or more commonly "Dock" only, from the vast establishment to which it owed its rise; but in 1824, the name was changed by royal authority to Devonport. It is now a large and handsome town, containing above 38,000 inhabitants. The construction of the Great Western Docks, which were opened in February 1857, will doubtless prove highly beneficial to the commercial interests of Devonport.

HERBERT.

East Stonehouse is situated between Plymouth and Devonport, the three places being generally regarded as one town. Stonehouse contains about 11,000 inhabitants, and is celebrated for its Royal Naval Asylum for the reception of wounded and disabled sailors.

MARION.

The manufactures of these towns are principally such as are peculiar to sea-ports, but Plymouth has also soap and starch factories, sugar refineries, and glass works.

KATE.

I believe these towns have been connected with but few historical events.

MRS. LESLIE.

Plymouth Sound has some deeply interesting associations. It was the rendezvous of the little fleet prepared to oppose the Invincible Armada, and, as we may well imagine, the scene of many an anxious hour on the part of the gallant British crew. It was here, eight years afterwards, that the fleet assembled previously to the expedition against Cadiz; and here that the Pilgrim Fathers, oppressed by the intolerance of James the First, embarked on board the Mayflower, to seek in America that liberty of conscience which was denied them in their fatherland.

HERBERT.

About twelve miles and a half from Plymouth Sound stands that mighty monument of scientific skill, the Eddystone lighthouse. It is built upon a reef of rocks of that name, so called, it is supposed, from the whirl or eddy of the waters caused by the heavy swells which flow from the Atlantic and the Bay of Biscay. At high water these dangerous rocks are entirely covered by the sea, and before the erection of a lighthouse, caused the destruction of many a gallant bark.

KATE.

There have been one or two lighthouses destroyed upon these rocks, have there not, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, the stupendous work of erecting one was first undertaken in 1696, by a Mr. Henry Winstanley, a gentleman of Littlebury, in Essex, who, though not brought up to the profession of an architect or engineer, displayed great talent in mechanical inventions. The lighthouse of his construction was built of wood and stone conjointly, and for about four years answered the purpose for which it was designed, although many scientific persons predicted its destruction in the event of a tempestuous storm. So great, however, was the confidence of the architect in the stability of his work, that he is said to have declared he should like to be in it during the greatest storm that could possibly take place. If such were indeed his vain-glorious wish, it was unfortunately gratified, for on the 26th of November, 1703, while he was in the lighthouse overlooking some workmen engaged in repairs, the most tremendous storm arose which ever visited the coast of Britain, and when morning dawned, not a vestige of the structure remained upon those rugged rocks. The lighthouse and its occupants were buried beneath the bosom of the deep.

WILLIE.

What an awful story, mamma! But has any other lighthouse been destroyed upon that spot?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, the next structure was of wood, and after resisting the fury of winds and waves for nearly fifty years, was accidentally destroyed by fire.

HERBERT.

How vastly superior to either of its predecessors is the present noble edifice erected by Mr. Smeaton. It has now withstood unshaken the terrific tempests of nearly a century, and in the opinion of competent judges it is believed to be capable of enduring almost any amount of assault from the raging elements.

MARION.

Is its stability attributed to its great strength, or to any peculiarity of construction?

HERBERT.

It is a building of stone of amazing strength and solidity, but I believe the great secret of its success is its construction according to the plan pursued by nature in the formation of the oak, from the observance of which Mr. Smeaton derived his notion of the shape most likely to be impregnable to the assaults of wind and weather. Like that mighty monarch of the woods, Eddystone lighthouse rises from its foundation with a broad swelling base, which gradually diminishes in circumference up to a certain height, which may be termed the waist, above which it again spreads out and rises to a height of seventy feet. This majestic tower is surmounted by an octagonal lantern of cast iron.

MARION.

What a dreary place a lighthouse must be to live in!

MRS. LESLIE.

It must indeed. Sometimes during the winter for weeks together a lighthouse-keeper can hold no manner of communication with the shore. His intercourse with the world is bounded by the circular walls of his ocean-home, and though when he looks around upon the wonders of the mighty deep, and sees the breakers rising mountains high, he is constrained to feel the presence of Omnipotence, the scene in itself is rather calculated to inspire emotions of awe and terror towards the Great Creator, than those of child-like love and confidence. Happy is it for such an one if he has learnt the character of God, not only from His works, but from His word, so that when storms and tempests arise he may be enabled to look up to Him as to a reconciled God and Father in Christ Jesus; and during the raging of conflicting elements, may, as it were, hear the "still small voice" of Jesus, saying to his soul, "It is I, be not afraid."

HERBERT.

Barnstaple is one of the best built towns of Devonshire. It is situated in a vale of great fertility, bordering on the river Taw, and possesses many more advantages than are usually to be met with in a provincial town. That commerce flourished here at an early

period is evident from the termination *staple*, which in the Saxon language signified a mart. It was formerly one of the principal seats of the woollen trade, but that manufacture has been superseded by those of bobbin-net and biscuits. The parish of Barnstaple contains upwards of 11,000 inhabitants.

KATE.

Tiverton was a place also anciently celebrated for the woollen manufacture, and although its prosperity was repeatedly checked by extensive conflagrations, it continued to be one of the most important clothing towns in the west of England until the commencement of the seventeenth century. The manufacture of lace and bobbin-net is now its principal industrial resource. The population of Tiverton is upwards of 11,000.

MARION.

Tavistock is a large town of Devonshire, situated on the river Tavy. It owes its origin to a Benedictine monastery, founded towards the close of the tenth century by Orger Earl of Devonshire. In the neighbourhood are extensive mines of iron, lead, copper, and manganese. Tavistock is celebrated as the birthplace of the famous navigator Sir Francis Drake. It contains a population of nearly 9000.

KATE.

Honiton has long held a distinguished place among the manufacturing towns of Devonshire. It was one of the first towns in England in which lace was made, and is still celebrated for the production of the most elegant of any of British manufacture. The town is situated in a delightful vale, which sends large quantities of butter to the London markets.

MRS. LESLIE.

I wonder whether Willie can mention the chief watering-places on the coast of Devon.

WILLIE.

Torquay, Teignmouth, Exmouth, Sidmouth, and Dawlish in the south, and Ilfracombe in the north.

MARION.

Torquay, one of the most delightful watering-places in England, is situated in a beautifully sheltered cove at the north-eastern extremity of Torbay. Its aspect is strikingly romantic and picturesque, rising as it does, terrace above terrace, along the hills which gently slope upwards from the ocean; and its climate is so peculiarly soft and mild, that it is in high repute as a winter residence for persons suffering from consumption.

KATE.

Torquay is one of those places that have risen up in modern times. Is it not, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, my dear. A century ago, Italy, the south of France, and Madeira were the places recommended by the faculty for those subject to pulmonary disease to winter in, while our own Torquay, whose climate can vie with either of those places, was inhabited only by a race of hardy fishermen. The exertions of the late Sir Lawrence Palk, who erected a pier and established the first hotel, brought the place into notice, and laid the foundation of the present beautiful town.

HERBERT.

Kent's Cavern is one of the most singular natural curiosities of Torquay. This extraordinary cave, which is in a limestone rock about a mile from the town, is of immense magnitude, and is greatly celebrated for containing the fossil bones of various animals. Bones of the elephant, elk, tiger, hyena, and rhinoceros, have been discovered, as well as those of some of our domestic animals.

KATE.

I suppose Torquay derives its principal support from visitors?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, its commerce is very inconsiderable, but its peculiar attractions as a watering-place are sufficient to ensure its prosperity. Its population is included in the returns for the parish of Tor Mahon, which at the last census contained nearly 12,000 inha-

bitants, about 10,000 of whom were residents or visitors sojourning at Torquay.

HERBERT.

We must not leave Torbay without noticing the flourishing port of Brixham, so memorable in history as the landing-place of the Prince of Orange. It is situated exactly opposite to Torquay, at the southern extremity of the bay, and sheltered by the bold promontory, known as Berry Head. Brixham is one of the most important of our fishing towns, and the seat of an extensive foreign trade. It contains about 6000 inhabitants.

WILLIE.

Was Brixham an important place when William landed there, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

No, my dear. It was then an obscure fishing village, capable of affording no better accommodation to the future king of England than the humble shelter of a cottage. Its commercial importance can only be dated back to the commencement of the present century, and yet, taking into consideration the difference in size, it can now vie in traffic with our largest ports.

HERBERT.

The remaining watering places on the southern coast of Devonshire, although each possesses some distinguishing peculiarities of scenery, are so similar in their history and general character, that they scarcely seem to demand a separate notice.

MRS. LESLIE.

I agree with you. Picturesque scenery, fine seas, modern improvements, fashionable visitors and excellent accommodations, are the characteristics of each and all. Ilfracombe in the north, bordering on the Bristol Channel, has some very lovely spots, and combines the attractions of a bathing-place with the traffic of a small commercial port. In concluding our notice of this lovely county, we may just observe, that it is a pity individuals should incur the trouble and expense of a foreign tour, until they have investigated the beauties which lie hidden in the nooks and corners of our island-home.

CONVERSATION XL.

CORNWALL.

SUBJECTS: — Attractions of "Old England." — Cornwall formerly little visited by English Tourists. — Unfounded Prejudices. — Boundaries. — Size. — Scilly Isles. — St. Mary's. — Industrial Pursuits. — Duchy of Cornwall. — Early Traffic. — Ancient Inhabitants. — Traces of Romans. — Struggles of Cornish Britons against Saxons. — Diversity in Aspect of County. — Cheese Wring. — Logan or Rocking Stones. — 'Toulmen. — Mineral Productions. — Annual Mineral Wealth of England. — Chief Mining District. — Stannary Courts. — Launceston. — Chief Rivers of County. — Liskeard. — Bodmin. — Historical Recollections. — St. Austle. — Truro. — China Clay. — Redruth. — Falmouth. — Pendennis Castle. — Black Rock. — Penryn. — St. Ives. — Penzance. — Mount's Bay. — Historical Reminiscences. — Wife of Perkin Warbeck. — Mines of St. Just. — Amphitheatres. — Antiquities and Natural Curiosities. — Land's End. — Review of England as it was and is.

"I HAVE been thinking over your remark at the close of our last conversation, dear mamma," said Herbert Leslie, "and the more I reflect on the attractions of our island, the more surprised I am that they should so frequently be overlooked by tourists. The pleasant conversations which we shall this morning bring to a close have convinced me that there is so much to see and to admire in my native land, that I think I shall never voluntarily set sail for a foreign shore without having first explored the most celebrated spots of 'Old England.'"

MRS. LESLIE.

I am delighted to find, my dear boy, that our occupation has had the effect of confirming that natural love of country, which is predominant in almost every breast, notwithstanding the perversity which causes many individuals unconsciously to weaken it by the

eagerness with which they enter upon foreign travels. Our own fair isle, though unquestionably inferior in grandeur and sublimity of scenery to some of the countries of Europe, and more strikingly still to the stupendous works of Nature as displayed on the vast continent of America, yet abounds in objects of attraction, the charm of which is heightened by the interesting national associations which cling to every venerable town, and, as we have seen, not unfrequently to the secluded hamlet and rural dell. In natural beauties and curiosities, few counties can compare with Cornwall; and yet, until a comparatively recent period, the majority of English tourists were far better acquainted with the mountain passes of Switzerland and Italy, and even with the tropical scenery of British India, than with this isolated region of their fatherland. I have heard your grandpapa say that a prejudice against Cornwall mingled with his earliest recollections. The dreadful deeds of Cornish giants occupied a prominent place in the juvenile literature of his day; and although, of course, such fabulous tales were rejected with increasing age and intelligence, I believe the common impression, some fifty or sixty years ago, was, that Cornwall was very deficient in civilisation to other places.

MARION.

You think such an impression, then, would be erroneous in the present day, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Certainly, my dear, if by civilisation we mean the development of man's intellectual and moral faculties, and the adaptation of those faculties to the duties, the requirements, the courtesies of life. The Cornish miner, it is true, is less polished in exterior than the artisan of the metropolis or manufacturing town; but, I believe, with but few exceptions, he possesses an intellect as vigorous and well cultivated, and a heart as deeply influenced by the kindest feelings of humanity, as those of less sturdy frame and homely garb. Many facts might be adduced confirmatory of this opinion, but we must not dwell longer on the subject. Katie, I think, is prepared to tell us the boundaries and size of Cornwall.

KATE.

Cornwall, the most westerly county of Great Britain, is shaped something like a horn, and is surrounded by the ocean on all sides but the east, which is separated from Devonshire by the river Tamer. The greatest length of the county is along the north-western coast, in which direction it measures about ninety miles. Its greatest breadth is along the eastern boundary, and is estimated at about forty-three miles.

WILLIE.

The Scilly Isles belong to Cornwall, do they not, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; that singular cluster of rocky islands which is situated about thirty miles from the Land's End, is included in the Duchy of Cornwall, although its inhabitants have some distinct privileges. The whole group contains no less than 140 islands, but I believe only six are inhabited, the largest of which (St. Mary's) contains a population of 1688; while the united population of the remaining five is less than 1000.

KATE.

Is the soil of the Scilly Isles capable of cultivation?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; a considerable part is under tillage, and produces good crops of corn and potatoes. Garlic is extensively cultivated, and chamomile grows naturally among the coarse short herbage of the hills. The inhabitants, however, are not much employed in agriculture; they are chiefly fishermen and pilots, the dangerous navigation in the neighbourhood of those rocky islands rendering the presence of men of the latter occupation highly necessary.

HERBERT.

The Duchy of Cornwall has existed ever since the reign of Edward the Third, if I remember right.

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; it was created in favour of his son Edward the Black Prince, who possessed many rich estates in the county, as well as large revenues arising from the duty on tin. The dukedom, with

its emoluments, was afterwards settled by Act of Parliament on the eldest son of the Sovereign of England; and of course, is now possessed by our own Prince of Wales.

HERBERT.

Cornwall was the seat of the earliest recorded commercial transactions of our island. A thousand years before the Christian era, the Phœnicians who colonised Cadiz, are said to have traded here for tin, for which they exchanged salt, earthenware, and other commodities. At the time of the Roman invasion, this county is believed to have been inhabited by the Damnonii, and as there are no authentic accounts of its subjugation by the Romans, some writers have expressed their doubts as to whether it was ever brought under the Roman yoke.

MRS. LESLIE.

The numerous Roman antiquities that have been discovered, I think, are sufficient to prove that it was occupied by that conquering people. It was probably subdued by Vespasian, and on the division of the island was most likely included in the province of Britannia Prima.

MARION.

Whatever was the state of Cornwall during the Roman government of England, the Cornish Britons struggled hard to retain their independence against the dominion of the Saxons. For a period of 500 years they vigorously resisted the invaders, and were not finally subdued until the reign of Athelstan, although their territories had long been nominally included in the dominions of the king of Wessex. During the struggle for supremacy, the inhabitants of Cornwall adopted the impolitic expedient of seeking aid from the Danes, who were then ravaging the coasts of England; but, (as might have been expected,) after combining with the Britons to repel the Saxons, they turned against their entertainers, and desolated their country with fire and sword.

KATE.

I was surprised to hear you speak of Cornwall as an attractive county, mamma; I thought a considerable part of it, at least, was very uninviting in appearance.

MRS. LESLIE.

The rugged chain of hills which intersects the county from east to west has certainly a barren and dreary aspect, which is further increased by the vast quantities of refuse from the mines which lie scattered confusedly in every direction; but in the vales below are some spots of singular loveliness and fertility, and even those rugged granite hills abound in objects well worthy of the investigation of the tourist.

MARION.

You allude, of course, mamma, to the Toulmen, Rocking-stones, and such like extraordinary formations.

MRS. LESLIE.

I do. The Cheese Wring, is, I believe, the most remarkable of the granite rocks of Cornwall. It occupies the highest ridge of a hill near to Liskeard, and consists of a mass of eight stones rising one above another, to a height of 32 feet. This singular pile, which is believed to be of natural construction, is said to derive its name from its resemblance to an ancient cheese-press. The largest stones are placed near the top, and so considerably overhang those at the base, that it appears wonderful that they have retained their position through the lapse of centuries.

WILLIE.

What are Rocking-Stones, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Logan, or Rocking-Stones, are stones which are so nicely poised, one upon another, that though of immense size and weight, they rock or vibrate in a certain direction upon the application of a very slight force. I have heard of rocking-stones which could be set in motion with a child's finger, and yet of such magnitude as to weigh many tons.

HERBERT.

I believe these rocking-stones are supposed to be works of art, and to have been in some way connected with the sacred rites of the Druids.

MRS. LESLIE.

Such is the general opinion of antiquaries; but how such gigantic masses could be raised and poised with so much exactitude, by our barbarous ancestors, is a question, which, I believe, none have attempted to solve. Instances are recorded of these extraordinary stones having been displaced, and the combined efforts of science and machinery have proved inadequate to restore their equilibrium.

KATE.

Are many of these rocking-stones to be found in Cornwall?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, more than in any other English county. One of the most remarkable is situated near the Land's End, on a peninsula which juts out a considerable distance into the sea.

KATE.

You must now tell us what Toulmen are, if you please, mamma.

MRS. LESLIE.

The name Toulman means "a hole of stone," and is applied exclusively to those huge masses of granite, on which the action of water has produced a hollow place, locally termed a "rock basin." One of these, called the Constantine Toulman, from its being situated in the parish of Constantine, in this county, is an immense mass of stone, the weight of which is estimated at 750 tons, and yet it is perched upon the points of two rocks in so curious a manner, that sufficient room is left for a man to creep under it. Its surface is penetrated by several of these "rock basins."

KATE.

You may well say that Cornwall abounds in natural curiosities, mamma, and when we take into account the extent and variety of its mineral productions, I am sure we may consider it a most important and interesting county.

MRS. LESLIE.

Perhaps, Katie, you can give us some information respecting the mineral productions of Cornwall?

KATE.

It abounds in mines of copper and tin, and it also produces lead, silver, iron, zinc, cobalt, bismuth, arsenic, and antimony. China-stone, which is used in the manufacture of fine porcelain, is likewise found among its subterranean productions.

WILLIE.

Are our pence and halfpence made from the copper that comes from Cornwall, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, Willie. British copper first came into use for coinage about the year 1717. Before that time, the metal was brought from Sweden, Germany, and other countries. The rich copper mines of Cornwall were not discovered until the end of the 17th century. They now produce annually more than 10,000 tons of this valuable metal; a larger quantity than all the other countries of Europe put together.

KATE.

I suppose, mamma, you can tell us the amount of the other mineral productions of Cornwall?

MRS. LESLIE.

In 1856, Cornwall produced upwards of 9000 tons of tin, above 22,000 tons of iron ore, about 6600 tons of lead, and nearly 250,000 oz. of silver.

MARION.

What an amazing amount of wealth must be realised by the mineral productions of our country!

MRS. LESLIE.

True, indeed, my dear. No less than the enormous sum of thirty-seven millions and a half of money is now obtained from that source alone.

MARION.

I believe the western part of the county is the chief mining district of Cornwall?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, from Truro to the Land's End, the mines are closer

together than in any other part of the county ; but the tin mines of St. Austle, which lie towards the centre of the southern coast, have been very productive for many centuries.

KATE.

You promised to tell us something about the Stannary Courts, mamma.

MRS. LESLIE.

The Stannary Courts were established at a very early period for the administration of justice among the workers in tin mines. They are under the jurisdiction of the Duke of Cornwall, whose officers, the lord-warden and the vice-warden of the courts, settle all disputes relative to the working of the mines, the smelting of the metal, and the commercial transactions of those engaged in the trade. No other court has power to interfere in such cases. The Stannary districts for Cornwall are Blackmore, Fog More, Tywarthaile, and Penwith in conjunction with Kerrier. The prison for offenders against the Stannary laws is situated at Bodmin.

WILLIE.

Is Launceston or Bodmin the capital of Cornwall, mamma ?

MRS. LESLIE.

Launceston is generally regarded as the county town, but Bodmin, certainly, has now a better claim to the distinction. Both the spring and summer assizes were formerly held at Launceston, but in the reign of George the First the summer assizes were removed to Bodmin, which town has since been further distinguished by the spring assizes being held there also. In noticing the towns of Cornwall, however, I think it will be desirable to commence with Launceston in the extreme east, and to proceed westward, naming all the towns of note as we come to them, irrespective of size or population. By such a plan our researches will terminate at the Land's End, which is certainly the most appropriate point for the conclusion of our investigation of England.

MARION.

Launceston is an ancient town pleasantly situated on an eminence rising from the river Attery, about three miles from its confluence

with the Tamer. The town was formerly surrounded by a wall, and further defended by a mighty castle, some massive ruins of which still exist. Considerable improvements have been made in Launceston of late years, but its trade is unimportant and its population but little more than 3000.

HERBERT.

The scenery of the Tamer and its numerous tributaries is described as highly romantic and picturesque. The other principal rivers of Cornwall are the Fogy, the Alan, the Fal, the Seaton, the Looe, and the Helford.

KATE.

The pretty town of Liskeard is the first place of note we come to on our ideal western tour, mamma. It is romantically situated on rocky hills, in the midst of a mining district. Liskeard contains about 6000 inhabitants, and carries on an extensive trade in copper, lead, and tin.

MARION.

The town of Bodmin is situated nearly in the centre of the county, and appears to owe its origin to a Benedictine monastery founded by king Athelstan shortly after his conquest of the Cornish Britons, and the consolidation of the county into the kingdom of England.

WILLIE.

Has Bodmin been a celebrated place in history, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

It took part in the rebellion of Perkin Warbeck, who collected troops there to the number of 3000 men, marched onward, and besieged Exeter; but being daunted by the strength of the king's forces, he fled by night to the sanctuary of Beaulieu Abbey, and left his followers to reap the consequences of their rebellion.

HERBERT.

Bodmin also participated in the revolt of the Cornish and Devonshire men in the reign of Edward the Sixth, when they rose in arms to defend the ancient catholic church against the innovations of the reformed religion. Many persons were put to death with great atrocity, for taking part in the rebellion.

KATE.

The scenery in the neighbourhood of Bodmin appears to be very picturesque, particularly towards the east, and the town itself has been greatly improved during the present century, but it is not the seat of any particular trade or manufacture, and its population is less than 5000.

MARION.

St. Austle is an important market town, situated in the immediate vicinity of the great Polgooth tin mine. In addition to the employment afforded by the mines, the inhabitants are extensively engaged in the pilchard fishery, which contributes greatly to the prosperity of the town. Its population is between 3000 and 4000.

HERBERT.

Truro is the most populous town of Cornwall, and contains nearly 11,000 inhabitants. It is situated in a valley about twenty miles from Bodmin, in the centre of a vast mining district, and is extensively engaged in the exportation of tin and copper. Manufactures of various kinds are carried on, the most considerable of which are those of carpets and paper. The pure white clay that is used in the manufacture of Parian ware is found between Truro and Bodmin.

MRS. LESLIE.

And a very singular appearance the working of that clay gives to the surrounding landscape. The immense square clay pits in which it is prepared for use are filled with a liquid that appears like milk, while the streams for several miles have lost their crystal clearness, and bear a strong resemblance to milk and water.

KATE.

I think such a transformation must have anything but a pleasing effect.

MRS. LESLIE.

I am quite of your opinion, Katie. A streamlet in all its limpid purity gently meandering through the vale is a very lovely feature in a rural landscape, but if thick and murky, is rather a detriment than an improvement to the scene.

MARION.

Redruth is an ancient market town of Cornwall, situated in the vicinity of extensive tin and copper mines, from which it derives its principal importance. The scenery around is singularly wild and rugged, and the neighbourhood abounds in "rock basins" and other natural curiosities. The population of Redruth is upwards of 7000.

KATE.

Falmouth is a flourishing seaport town situated at the mouth of the river Fal, from which circumstance it derives its name. It is extensively engaged in the exportation of tin and copper, and carries on a considerable trade with the Channel Islands. Falmouth harbour is one of the most capacious in the kingdom.

MRS. LESLIE.

Falmouth is a town that has risen up in comparatively modern times. At the commencement of the seventeenth century a few solitary huts inhabited by persons engaged in the pilchard fishery occupied the site of this busy town, which now contains about 5000 inhabitants.

MARION.

Pendennis Castle, so renowned during the civil wars, is in the neighbourhood of Falmouth, is it not, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes, it defends the western entrance to the harbour, as the castle of St. Mawes does that towards the east. Both of these fortresses were built during the reign of Henry the Eighth, and were strengthened and improved by Queen Elizabeth.

WILLIE.

For what was Pendennis Castle celebrated during the civil wars, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

For its firm adherence to the royal cause, my dear. It long and resolutely held out for the king, and was one of the last places that surrendered to the parliamentarians.

HERBERT.

The black rock at the middle of the entrance to Falmouth harbour is a remarkable natural object, and an interesting relic of antiquity. Tradition says, that it is the spot to which the Phœnicians used to resort in their traffic with the natives for tin. It is now surmounted by a beacon, which serves as a landmark to mariners.

MARION.

Penryn is a market-town about two miles from Falmouth. It has some pleasant streams running through the streets, by which motive power is supplied to corn and paper-mills. The inhabitants are extensively engaged in the pilchard and Newfoundland fisheries, in the exportation of granite, and in the importation of corn and flour for the supply of the populous mining districts by which it is surrounded. Penryn contains about 4000 inhabitants.

KATE.

St. Ives is a place of great antiquity, and is situated at the north-west of the beautiful bay of the same name, in the Bristol Channel. It contains between 6000 and 7000 inhabitants, many of whom are employed in the pilchard fishery.

HERBERT.

Penzance is the most westerly market-town of England. It occupies the north-western coast of Mount's Bay, about ten miles from the Land's End, and is much frequented by invalids on account of the mildness and salubrity of its climate. The town has been greatly improved of late years, and the population, which is now upwards of 9000, has more than doubled during the present century. The trade of the town consists principally in the exportation of tin, copper, clay, china-stone, and pilchards.

WILLIE.

I suppose Mount's Bay receives its name from that singular-looking rocky island, St. Michael's Mount, which you showed me a picture of the other day, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

It does, my dear. And well worthy is that majestic granite isle to give name to the magnificent bay in which it stands. St. Michael's Mount, which is about a mile in circumference, is one of the most remarkable of the isolated rocks of Great Britain. It rises 300 feet above the level of the sea, and, viewed from the shore in the midst of the noble bay, whose waters dash around it, is an object well calculated to inspire the beholder with feelings of mingled awe and admiration.

KATE.

The old castle on the summit of the Mount has been a place of some note in history, has it not, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.

Yes; it repeatedly sustained the horrors of a siege during the several civil wars which have desolated our country; but the most interesting reminiscence attached to it, is its having proved a temporary asylum to the beautiful and accomplished wife of the ill-fated Perkin Warbeck.

MARION.

Poor Lady Katherine Gordon! How much I have always pitied and admired her!

MRS. LESLIE.

She was indeed a beautiful instance of conjugal affection and fidelity. Notwithstanding the cruel imposition Warbeck practised in obtaining her in marriage, under the assumed title of Duke of York, she never abandoned him, but clung to him throughout his misfortunes and disgrace with the most earnest, self-sacrificing devotion. Even the cold and reserved Henry the Seventh, against whom her husband had rebelled, appears to have been touched with her fidelity and misfortunes, for instead of involving her in the consequences of Warbeck's crime, he took her to court, and placed her about the person of his queen, where she lived in circumstances of comfort and tranquillity.

KATE.

Is the island of St. Michael's Mount inhabited, mamma?

MRS. LESLIE.¹

Yes, principally by fishermen, pilots, and their families. When the tide is out, the island is accessible by a passage across the sands.

HERBERT.

Although there are no towns of importance west of Penzance, the district presents several distinct features of interest. The mines of St. Just afford employment to great numbers of the surrounding inhabitants. Then there are rude memorials of barbarous ages, calculated to excite the curiosity and demand the admiration of the antiquary; and rocks to invite the patient investigation of the geologist. The amphitheatre of St. Just is one of the most celebrated relics of antiquity in this part of the county. It is situated near to Cape Cornwall, and differs from the generality of those to be found in our island, inasmuch as the tiers of seats which rise one above another are formed of stone, instead of turf, a peculiarity which has caused considerable discussion among antiquaries. Rough blocks of stone, from twelve to fifteen feet in height, standing in pairs, and supposed to be monuments of the dead, are also to be seen in this remote peninsula, while the coins, domestic utensils, and weapons of warfare, which have occasionally been met with, serve to throw some light upon the obscurity of its early history.

MRS. LESLIE.

We have now arrived at the most interesting point in Cornwall, the Land's End, and as we stand in imagination upon its granite cliffs, with the mighty ocean stretching out before us, bearing on its bosom the sails of many lands, let us take a retrospective glance of England's history. In the course of our research, we have seen our beloved country the habitation of barbarous hordes, almost as rude and untutored as the animals they chased. We have seen her the battle-field of the conquering Romans, the treacherous Saxons, the marauding Danes, and the rapacious Normans. We have seen her divided against herself, and deluged with the blood of civil warfare, her princes dethroned, her people desolate and wasted. We have seen her the abode of

pagan darkness, of popish cruelty, of protestant intolerance. And we have seen her, phoenix-like, rise from the ruins of these several states of degradation to a glorious pre-eminence among the nations of the earth. We have traced the rise of her manufactures, marked the extension of her commerce, and beheld with amazement the achievements of her science. We have had proof of her increasing wealth and importance in the rise and progress of her magnificent cities, crowded marts, numerous railways, and flourishing ports, — in the vast aggregate of her mining produce, and the marvellous development of her postal communication. We have regarded her as the conqueror over invading nations, and as the judicious architect of her own internal polity. We have witnessed her emancipation from the thraldom of pagan and popish superstition, and have seen her people universally instructed in the pure doctrines of the gospel of Christ. We have seen her with her growing strength snap, link by link, the chains of civil despotism and religious intolerance, and we now behold her standing out prominently from all other nations as the land of liberty, of justice, and of truth. May England long retain her high position and exalted privileges, and her inhabitants ever be in the happy case of that people who have the Lord for their God!

THE END.

LONDON :
PRINTED BY SPOTTISWOODE AND CO.
NEW-STREET SQUARE.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL-BOOKS

By EDWARD HUGHES, F.R.A.S., &c.;

HEAD MASTER OF THE ROYAL NAVAL LOWER SCHOOL, GREENWICH HOSPITAL.

NEW AND IMPROVED EDITIONS.

GEOGRAPHICAL WORKS AND ATLASES.

OUTLINES of PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY, descriptive of the Inorganic Matter of the Globe and the Distribution of Organised Beings. With 8 coloured Maps 12mo. 3s. 6d.

EXAMINATION QUESTIONS on *Outlines of Physical Geography*..... 12mo. 6d.

HUGHES'S ATLAS of PHYSICAL, POLITICAL, and COMMERCIAL GEOGRAPHY; 17 full-coloured Maps and Letterpress. Royal 8vo. 10s. 6d.

HUGHES'S SCHOOL ATLAS of PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY, comprising 8 coloured Maps, compiled by W. HUGHES, F.R.G.S. 12mo. 1s. 6d.

HUGHES'S INTRODUCTORY ATLAS of MODERN GEOGRAPHY, comprising 12 coloured Maps, engraved on Steel, 12mo. 2s. 6d.

HUGHES'S GEOGRAPHY for ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS. 18mo. 1s.

HUGHES'S GENERAL ATLAS for ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS; 12 Maps, engraved by W. HUGHES, F.R.G.S. 18mo. coloured 1s. 6d.; plain, 1s.

SACRED GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY.

HUGHES'S OUTLINES of SCRIPTURE GEOGRAPHY and HISTORY; comprising Palestine and the adjacent Bible Lands. With 12 coloured Maps 12mo. 4s. 6d.

HUGHES'S SCHOOL ATLAS of BIBLE LANDS, containing 12 full-coloured Maps, engraved by J. and C. WALKER. Fcp. 8vo. 1s. 6d.

ARITHMETIC.

HUGHES'S MANUAL of EXPLANATORY ARITHMETIC, including numerous carefully constructed Examples. ... Fcp. 8vo. 1s. 6d.

TEACHER'S COPY of ditto, with ANSWERS to the Examples. Price 3s. 6d.

ENGLISH READING-BOOKS.

HUGHES'S SELECT SPECIMENS of ENGLISH POETRY. Comprising Poems—1. Historical and Geographical; 2. On the Love of Home and Country; 3. Labour and Progress; 4. Relating to the Sea and the Sailor; 5. On the Love of Nature; 6. Of the Imagination and Fancy; 7. Religious and Moral 12mo. 3s. 6d.

HUGHES'S SELECT SPECIMENS of ENGLISH PROSE, Comprising Pieces relating to—1. Natural History and Geography; 2. Biography and Civil History; 3. Education and the Progress of Society; 4. The Sea and Maritime Adventure; 5. The Imagination and Sympathetic Affections; 6. Science and General Knowledge; and 7. Miscellaneous Knowledge 12mo. 4s. 6d.

London: LONGMAN, BROWN, and CO., Paternoster Row.

THE REV. G. R. GLEIG'S
SCHOOL SERIES.
A NEW SERIES OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL-BOOKS

EACH BOOK (IN MOST INSTANCES) COMPLETE IN ITSELF,
PRICE ONE SHILLING. INTENDED TO COMPRISE A
COMPLETE COURSE OF ELEMENTARY
EDUCATION.

Projected and Edited

BY THE REV. G. R. GLEIG, M.A.

Chaplain-General to the Forces, and Prebendary of St. Paul's.

ASSISTED BY EMINENT SCHOLARS AND TEACHERS.

PROSPECTUS.

THE object of this School Series is to produce a succession of little books, containing PROGRESSIVE lessons suitable to the capacities of every description of learners. In *My First School-Book*, the pupil, after being made familiar with the shapes of letters, is taught how the union of letters produces words, and how words awaken images in the mind. He next learns, in *Simple Truths*, to connect words of one syllable with grave ideas. His third step is to *My Second School-Book*, which contains a vast amount of information on "Common Things," systematically arranged. He then proceeds to *The First Book of History*, which sets forth, in words advancing from one syllable to four, an outline of the annals of his native country. After this, the histories of the *British Colonies*, of *British India*, of *Greece*, *Rome*, *France*, and *Modern Europe*, are successively placed before him; while from the *Sacred History* he acquires the knowledge of those great truths on which all Christians are agreed.

Meanwhile, the principles on which language is universally based, as well as the peculiar features of his own, are made clear to the pupil in the *Explanatory Grammar*; and a concise *History of the English Language* enables him to trace his

London: LONGMAN, BROWN, and CO., Paternoster Row.

own tongue from its source to its present state. He is next made acquainted with the laws which regulate the movements of nature, in Treatises on *Astronomy, Hydrostatics, Hydraulics, Pneumatics, &c., Experimental Chemistry, Light, Heat, Magnetism, Electricity,* and the *Steam Engine*. In the department of the Exact Sciences, namely, in *Arithmetic, in Geometry, in Algebra,* and in *Mechanics,* the pupil is gradually set forward in a right course.

The Series further contains Elementary Treatises on Geography, both general and particular. The *Child's First Book of Geography* is a collection of easy reading-lessons. The book of *General Geography* sets forth the great distinguishing physical features of the various regions and countries of the globe; while the *Geography of the British Empire* explains all that appertains, physically and politically, to Great Britain and its dependencies. The *Hand-Atlas of General Geography* (sold for 2s. 6d.) is composed of 29 full-coloured Maps, compiled by Mr. M'Leod. Mr. M'Leod's *Class-Atlas of Physical Geography* (also sold for 2s. 6d.) comprises a set of full-coloured Maps, Sections, and Diagrams, exhibiting the natural features of every region of the terraqueous globe. In writing, Mr. M'Leod's *Graduated Series of Copy-Books* leads the pupil forward by easy and progressive steps. Mr. Isbister's *Treatise on Book-keeping* is the cheapest and most concise extant; and a set of eight forms of Account-Books (price 6d. each), by Mr. Isbister, has recently been added to it. The Series also now comprises a *Book of Health*, giving a descriptive outline as well of the human frame as of the ordinary causes which tend either to invigorate or impair it; and a book of *Domestic Economy* conveying sound elementary knowledge on all that relates to food, clothing, and the management of a small income. A short *History of Modern Europe*, a concise account of the *English Constitution*, an introduction to *Agricultural Chemistry*, and a simplified work on *Natural History*, illustrative of the principles of the Classification of Animals, are nearly ready; and the Series will be completed by a *Book of Biography*, containing sketches of the careers of individuals who have risen by their own merits, and exercised a powerful influence over their fellow-men.

That the public in general has not been indifferent to the merits of these works is proved by the very wide circulation to which most of them have already attained. Of the *Grammar* there have been sold above 40,000 copies; of the *History of England* above 50,000; of other *Histories*, collectively, upwards of 120,000 copies; of the Treatises on

Natural Philosophy, collectively, above 30,000; of the Geographical Works, collectively, above 60,000; of the *Arithmetic* above 19,000; and of the *Copy-Books*, collectively, above One Million:—And the projector and publishers beg to state that no pains will be wanting on their part to make their SCHOOL SERIES still more worthy of public favour.

List of the Works already Published.

A GRADUATED SERIES of NINE COPY-BOOKS, mainly on the Method of Mulhauser; with engraved Copy-heads, conveying useful Information, Historical, Geographical, and Scientific. By WALTER M'LEOD, F.R.G.S. Oblong sto. price Threepence each Copy-Book.

MY FIRST SCHOOL-BOOK to teach me Reading and Writing. By W. M'LEOD, F.R.G.S., Head Master of the Model School, and Master of Method, Royal Military Asylum, Chelsea. 18mo. price Sixpence.

MY SECOND SCHOOL-BOOK to teach me Reading and Spelling. By W. M'LEOD, F.R.G.S. 18mo. price One Shilling.

SIMPLE TRUTHS, in Easy Lessons; being an abridged Scripture History, arranged as a First Reading-Book. 18mo. price Sixpence.

DOMESTIC ECONOMY; or, Housekeeping, Management, Cookery, and Domestic Expenditure, simplified for Schools of Industry and Adult Learners. 18mo. price One Shilling.

A MANUAL of ARITHMETIC; containing a Graduated Series of 1,750 Questions for Elementary Instruction. By W. M'LEOD, F.R.G.S. 18mo. price One Shilling.

EXPLANATORY ENGLISH GRAMMAR for Beginners. By WALTER M'LEOD, F.R.G.S. 18mo. price One Shilling.

* * Or, for the convenience of Elementary Schools, in Four separate Parts:—I. and III. One Penny each; II. Fourpence; and IV. Sixpence.—Also, *Definitions*, for Home Study, One Penny.

HISTORY of the ENGLISH LANGUAGE, tracing it from its Celtic and Anglo-Saxon Source to the end of the Eighteenth Century: with 31 Specimens of Eminent Writers. For the use of Pupil Teachers and the Higher Classes in Schools. By JOHN EDWARDS. 18mo. price One Shilling.

The CHILD'S FIRST BOOK of GEOGRAPHY, arranged in a Series of Easy Reading-Lessons. By W. HUGHES, F.R.G.S. With Woodcuts. 18mo. price Ninepence.

GEOGRAPHY of the BRITISH EMPIRE. For the use of Beginners. By W. HUGHES, F.R.G.S., Lecturer at the Metropolitan Training Institution, Highbury. 18mo. price One Shilling.

GENERAL GEOGRAPHY. For the use of Beginners. By WILLIAM HUGHES, F.R.G.S. 18mo. price One Shilling.

HAND-ATLAS of GENERAL GEOGRAPHY: Comprising 29 full-coloured Maps, and containing nearly every Place mentioned in the Geographical and Historical Works of the Series. By W. M'LEOD, F.R.G.S. 18mo. price 3s. half-bound; or sewed, 2s. 6d.

CLASS-ATLAS of PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY: Comprising 20 coloured Maps and 10 Sections and Diagrams; preceded by explanatory Letterpress, forming a concise Synopsis of Physical Geography. By W. M'LEOD, F.R.G.S. 18mo. price 3s. half-bound; or sewed, 2s. 6d.

QUESTIONS on M'LEOD'S CLASS-ATLAS of PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY in Gleig's School Series. By the Rev. T. BOWMAN, M.A., Vice-Principal of Bishop's College, Bristol. 18mo. price One Shilling.

"A useful series of questions—or series of subjects rather. Physical geography is a most important subject, yet it has never obtained that attention from instructors which its

interest as a branch of education demands. The publication of a text-book such as this must greatly tend to do away with this defect in school teaching." BUILDER.

The BOOK of HEALTH. By ROBERT JAMES MANN, M.D., M.R.C.S.E., Author of *A Guide to the Knowledge of the Heavens*. 18mo. price One Shilling.

FIRST BOOK of HISTORY—England. By the Rev. G. R. GLEIG, M.A. 18mo. price 2s. 6d. cloth; or, in Two Parts, price 1s. each.

The BRITISH COLONIES. Forming the Second Book of History. By the Rev. G. R. GLEIG, M.A. 18mo. price One Shilling.

BRITISH INDIA. Forming the Third Book of History. By the Rev. G. R. GLEIG, M.A. 18mo. price One Shilling.

SACRED HISTORY. Forming the Fourth Book of History. By the Rev. G. R. GLEIG, M.A. 18mo. price 2s. 6d. cloth; or, in Two Parts, 1s. each.

HISTORICAL QUESTIONS. PART I. On the Histories of England, British India, and the British Colonies, and on the *Sacred History*. 18mo. price 1s.

HISTORY of ROME. By the Rev. R. W. BROWNE, M.A., Professor of Classical Literature in King's College, London. 18mo. price One Shilling.

HISTORY of GREECE. By the Rev. R. W. BROWNE, M.A., Professor of Classical Literature in King's College, London. 18mo. price One Shilling.

HISTORY of FRANCE. By Capt. A. C. GLEIG, Assistant-Inspector of Military Schools. 18mo. price One Shilling.

MECHANICS and the STEAM-ENGINE. Simplified for the Instruction of Beginners, and elucidated with Diagrams and Woodcuts. By THOMAS TATE, F.R.A.S., late of Kneller Training College. 18mo. price 1s.

ASTRONOMY and the USE of the GLOBES. Simplified for the Instruction of Beginners. By T. TATE, F.R.A.S. With Woodcuts. 18mo. price 1s.

HYDROSTATICS, HYDRAULICS, and PNEUMATICS. For the use of Beginners. By T. TATE, F.R.A.S. With numerous Woodcuts. 18mo. 1s.

LIGHT and HEAT. For the use of Beginners; in which the Principles of the Science are familiarly explained and illustrated by numerous Experiments and Diagrams. By T. TATE, F.R.A.S. 18mo. with Woodcuts, price One Shilling.

ELECTRICITY. For the use of Beginners; in which the Principles of the Science are familiarly explained and illustrated by Experiments and Diagrams. By T. TATE, F.R.A.S. 18mo. price One Shilling.

MAGNETISM, VOLTAIC ELECTRICITY, and ELECTRO-DYNAMICS. For the use of Beginners; in which the Principles of those Sciences are familiarly explained and illustrated by numerous Experiments and Diagrams. By T. TATE, F.R.A.S. 18mo. with Woodcuts, price One Shilling.

OUTLINES of EXPERIMENTAL CHEMISTRY. Simplified for the Instruction of Beginners, and illustrated by Diagrams and Wood Engravings. By T. TATE, F.R.A.S. 18mo. price One Shilling.

ELEMENTS of BOOK-KEEPING by SINGLE and DOUBLE ENTRY, with Practical Explanations and Exercises on the most useful Forms of Business. By A. K. ISBISTER, M.A. 18mo. price 1s.

ISBISTER'S SET of EIGHT ACCOUNT-BOOKS by SINGLE and DOUBLE ENTRY, adapted to the above *Elements of Book-keeping*. Oblong 4to. price 6d. each Account-Book.

ELEMENTARY ALGEBRA for Beginners. By W. J. REYNOLDS, M.A., Royal Military Asylum, Chelsea. 18mo. price 1s.—ANSWERS, price Threepence.

The FIRST THREE BOOKS of EUCLID'S ELEMENTS of GEOMETRY. By T. TATE, F.R.A.S. With Diagrams. 18mo. price One Shilling.

Works in Preparation.

A BOOK of BIOGRAPHY.

AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTRY.

BOOK of NATURAL HISTORY.

The ENGLISH CONSTITUTION.

The HISTORY of MODERN EUROPE.

London: LONGMAN, BROWN, and CO., Paternoster Row.

A CATALOGUE

OF

NEW WORKS IN GENERAL LITERATURE

PUBLISHED BY
LONGMAN, BROWN, GREEN, LONGMANS, AND ROBERTS
 39 PATERNOSTER ROW, LONDON.

CLASSIFIED INDEX

Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

Baydon on Valuing Rents, &c.	5
Cecil's Stud Farm	8
Hoskyns's Talpa	11
London's Agriculture	14
Low's Elements of Agriculture	14
Morton on Landed Estates	17

Arts, Manufactures, and Architecture.

Bourne on the Screw Propeller	6
Brande's Dictionary of Science, &c.	6
" Organic Chemistry	6
Chevreul on Colour	8
Cresy's Civil Engineering	8
Fairbairn's Information for Engineers	9
Gwilt's Encyclopædia of Architecture	10
Harford's Plates from M. Angelo	10
Humphrey's Parables Illuminated	13
Jameson's Sacred and Legendary Art 12, 13	13
" Commonplace-Book	13
König's Pictorial Life of Luther	10
London's Rural Architecture	14
Mac Dougall's Campaigns of Hannibal	15
" Theory of War	15
Moseley's Engineering	17
Pieesse's Art of Perfumery	18
Richardson's Art of Horsemanship	19
Scoffers on Projectiles, &c.	20
Scrivenor on the Iron Trade	20
Steam Engine, by the Artisan Club	6
Ure's Dictionary of Arts, &c.	23

Biography.

Arago's Lives of Scientific Men	5
Brialmont's Wellington	6
Bunsen's Hippolytus	7
Crosse's (Andrew) Memorials	9
Gleig's Essays	10
Green's Princesses of England	10
Harford's Life of Michael Angelo	10
Lardner's Cabinet Cyclopædia	13
Maunder's Biographical Treasury	15
Mountain's (Col.) Memoirs	17
Parry's (Admiral) Memoirs	18

Russell's Memoirs of Moore	18
" (Dr.) Life of Meszofanti	20
Schimmel Penninck's (Mrs.) Life	20
Southey's Life of Wesley	21
" Life and Correspondence	21
Stephen's Ecclesiastical Biography	22
Strickland's Queens of England	22
Sydney Smith's Memoirs	21
Symonds's (Admiral) Memoirs	22
Taylor's Loyola	22
" Wesley	22
Urwins's Memoirs and Letters	23
Waterton's Autobiography and Essays. 34	34

Books of General Utility.

Acton's Bread-Book	5
" Cookery-Book	5
Black's Treatise on Brewing	6
Cabinet Gazetteer	7
" Lawyer	7
Cust's Invalid's Own Book	9
Gilbart's Logic for the Million	10
Hints on Etiquette	11
How to Nurse Sick Children	12
Hudson's Executor's Guide	12
" on Making Wills	12
Kesteven's Domestic Medicine	13
Lardner's Cabinet Cyclopædia	13
London's Lady's Country Companion	14
Maunder's Treasury of Knowledge	15
" Biographical Treasury	15
" Geographical Treasury	15
" Scientific Treasury	15
" Treasury of History	15
" Natural History	16
Pieesse's Art of Perfumery	18
Pocket and the Stud	10
Pycroft's English Reading	19
Reece's Medical Guide	19
Rich's Companion to Latin Dictionary	19
Richardson's Art of Horsemanship	19
Riddle's Latin Dictionary	19
Roget's English Thesaurus	20
Rowton's Debater	20
Short Whist	21
Thomson's Interest Tables	22
Webster's Domestic Economy	24
West on Children's Diseases	24
Willich's Popular Tables	24
Wilmot's Blackstone	24

Botany and Gardening.

Hassall's British Freshwater Algae	11
Hooker's British Flora	11
" Guide to Kew Gardens	11
" " Kew Museum	11
Lindley's Introduction to Botany	14
" Theory of Horticulture	14
Loudon's Hortus Britannicus	14
" Amateur Gardener	14
" Trees and Shrubs	14
" Gardening	14
" Plants	14
Pereira's Materia Medica	18
Rivers's Rose Amateur's Guide	19
Wilson's British Mosses	24

Chronology.

Blair's Chronological Tables	6
Brewer's Historical Atlas	6
Bunsen's Ancient Egypt	7
Calendars of English State Papers	7
Haydn's Beatson's Index	11
Jaquetmet's Chronology	13
" Abridged Chronology	13

Commerce and Mercantile Affairs.

Gilbart's Treatise on Banking	10
Lorimer's Young Master Mariner	14
Macleod's Banking	15
McCulloch's Commerce and Navigation	18
Murray on French Finance	20
Scrivenor on the Iron Trade	22
Thomson's Interest Tables	22
Tooke's History of Prices	22

Criticism, History, and Memoirs.

Blair's Chron. and Historical Tables	6
Brewer's Historical Atlas	6
Bunsen's Ancient Egypt	7
" Hippolytus	7
Calendars of English State Papers	7
Capgrave's Illustrious Henries	8
Chapman's Gustavus Adolphus	8
Chronicles and Memorials of England	8
Connolly's Sappers and Miners	8
Conybeare and Howson's St. Paul	8
Crowe's History of France	9
Fischer's Francis Bacon	9
Gleig's Essays	10
Gurney's Historical Sketches	10
Hayward's Essays	11
Herschel's Essays and Addresses	11
Jeffrey's (Lord) Contributions	13
Kemble's Anglo Saxons	13
Lardner's Cabinet Cyclopædia	13
Macaulay's Critical and Hist. Essays	14
" History of England	14
" Speeches	14
Mackintosh's Miscellaneous Works	15
" History of England	15
McCulloch's Geographical Dictionary	16
Maunder's Treasury of History	16
" History of Rome	16
" Roman Republic	16
Millner's Church History	16
Moore's (Thomas) Memoirs, &c.	18
Mure's Greek Literature	17
Normanby's Year of Revolution	18
Perry's France	18
Raikie's Journal	19
Riddle's Latin Dictionaries	19

Rogers's Essays from Edinb. Review	20
Roget's English Thesaurus	20
Schmitz's History of Greece	20
Southery's Doctor	21
Stephens's Ecclesiastical Biography	22
" Lectures on French History	23
Sydney Smith's Works	21
" Lectures	21
" Memoirs	21
Taylor's Loyola	22
" Wesley	22
Thirlwall's History of Greece	22
Thomas's Historical Notes	27
Townsend's State Trials	22
Turner's Anglo-Saxons	23
" Middle Ages	23
" Sacred History of the World	23
Uwins's Memoirs and Letters	23
Yehae's Austrian Court	23
Wade's England's Greatness	24
Young's Christ of History	24

Geography and Atlases.

Brewer's Historical Atlas	6
Butler's Geography and Atlases	7
Cabinet Gazetteer	7
Johnston's General Gazetteer	13
McCulloch's Geographical Dictionary	15
Maunder's Treasury of Geography	16
Murray's Encyclopædia of Geography	17
Sharp's British Gazetteer	21

Juvenile Books.

Amy Herbert	20
Cleve Hall	20
Earl's Daughter (The)	20
Experience of Life	20
Gertrude	20
Howitt's Boy's Country Book	12
" (Mary) Children's Year	12
Ivora	20
Katharine Ashton	20
Laneton Parsonage	20
Margaret Percival	20
Pycroft's Collegian's Guide	19

Medicine, Surgery, &c.

Brodie's Psychological Inquiries	7
Bull's Hints to Mothers	6
" Management of Children	6
Copland's Dictionary of Medicine	8
Cust's Invalid's Own Book	9
Holland's Mental Physiology	11
" Medical Notes and Reflections	11
How to Nurse Sick Children	12
Kesteven's Domestic Medicine	13
Pereira's Materia Medica	18
Reece's Medical Guide	19
Richardson's Cold-water Cure	19
Spencer's Principles of Psychology	21
West on Diseases of Infancy	24

Miscellaneous Literature.

Baron's (Lord) Works	5
Defence of <i>Helioses of Faith</i>	9
Eclipse of Faith	6
Greathead's Letters from Delhi	10
Grayson's Select Correspondence	10
Gurney's Evening Recreations	10
Hassall's Adulterations Detected, &c.	11
Haydn's Book of Dignities	11
Holland's Mental Physiology	11

Hooker's New Guides	11
Howitt's Rural Life of England	12
" Visits to Remarkable Places	12
Jameson's Commonplace-Book	13
Jeffrey's (Lord) Contributions	13
Last of the Old Squires	13
Letters of a Hrt-throated	13
Macaulay's Critical and Hist. Essays	14
" Speeches	14
Mackintosh's Miscellaneous Works	15
Martineau's Miscellanies	16
Pycroft's English Reading	19
Rae's Siege of Lucknow	19
Rice's Companion to Latin Dictionary	19
Riddle's Latin Dictionary	19
Rowton's Debater	20
Seaward's Narrative of his Shipwreck	20
Shr Roger De Coverley	21
Smith's (Rev. Sydney) Works	21
Southey's Doctor, &c.	21
Spencer's Essays	21
Stephen's Essays	22
Stow's Training System	22
Thomson's Laws of Thought	22
Tighe and Davis's Windsor	22
Townsend's State Trials	22
Yonge's English-Greek Lexicon	24
" Latin Gradus	24
Zumpt's Latin Grammar	24

Natural History in general.

Catlow's Popular Conchology	8
Ephemera's Book of the Salmon	9
Garratt's Marvels of Instinct	10
Gosse's Natural History of Jamaica	10
Kirby and Spence's Entomology	13
Lee's Elements of Natural History	13
Maunder's Natural History	16
Quaterfages' Rambles of a Naturalist	19
Turton's Shells of the British Islands	23
Van der Hoeven's Handbook of Zoology	24
Waterton's Essays on Natural History	24
Yonatt's The Dog	24
" The Horse	24

One-Volume Encyclopedias and Dictionaries.

Blaine's Rural Sports	6
Brande's Science, Literature, and Art	6
Copland's Dictionary of Medicine	6
Cress's Civil Engineering	8
Gwilt's Architecture	10
Johnston's Geographical Dictionary	13
Loudon's Agriculture	14
" Rural Architecture	14
" Gardening	14
" Plants	14
" Trees and Shrubs	14
McCulloch's Geographical Dictionary	15
" Dictionary of Commerce	15
Murray's Encyclopedia of Geography	17
Sharp's British Gazetteer	21
Ure's Dictionary of Arts, &c.	23
Webster's Domestic Economy	24

Religious and Moral Works.

Amy Herbert	20
Bloomfield's Greek Testament	6
Calvert's Wife's Manual	8
Cleve Hall	20

Conybeare and Howson's St. Paul	8
Cotton's Instructions in Christianity	8
Dale's Domestic Liturgy	9
Defence of Eclipse of Faith	9
Earl's Daughter (The)	20
Eclipse of Faith	9
Englishman's Greek Concorance	9
" Heb. & Chald. Concord.	9
Experience (The) of Life	20
Gertrude	20
Harrison's Light of the Forge	10
Horne's Introduction to Scriptures	11
" Abridgment of ditto	11
Huc's Christianity in China	12
Humphreys's Parables Illuminated	12
Ivora, by the Author of <i>Amy Herbert</i>	20
Jameson's Saints and Martyrs	12
" Monastic Legends	13
" Legends of the Madonna	13
" on Female Employment	13
Jeremy Taylor's Works	13
Katharine Ashton	21
König's Pictorial Life of Luther	10
Laneton Parsonage	20
Letters to my Unknown Friends	13
" on Happiness	13
Lyra Germanica	7
Maguire's Rome	15
Margaret Percival	20
Martineau's Christian Life	15
" Hymns	15
" Studies of Christianity	15
Merivale's Christian Records	16
Milner's Church of Christ	26
Moore on the Use of the Body	26
" Soul and Body	26
" 's Man and his Motives	26
Morning Clouds	17
Neale's Closing Scene	18
Pattison's Earth and Word	18
Powell's Christianity without Judaism	20
Readings for Lent	20
" Confirmation	20
Riddle's Household Prayers	19
Robinson's Lexicon to the Greek Testa- ment	20
Saints our Example	20
Sermon in the Mount	20
Sinclair's Journey of Life	21
Smith's (Sydney) Moral Philosophy	21
" (G. V.) Assyrian Prophecies	21
" (G.) Wesleyan Methodism	21
" (J.) Shipwreck of St. Paul	21
Southey's Life of Wesley	21
Stephen's Ecclesiastical Biography	22
Taylor's Loyola	22
" Wesley	22
Theologia Germanica	7
Thumb Bible (The)	22
Turner's Sacred History	23
Young's Christ of History	24
" Mystery	24

Poetry and the Drama.

Aikin's (Dr.) British Poets	5
Arnold's Merope	5
" Forms	5
Baillie's (Joanna) Poetical Works	5
Calvert's Wife's Manual	8
Goldsmith's Poema, illustrated	10
Horace, edited by Yonge	24
L. E. L.'s Poetical Works	13
Linwood's Anthologia Oxoniensis	14

Lyra Germanica	7
Macaulay's Lays of Ancient Rome	14
MacDonald's Within and Without	15
" Poems	14
Montgomery's Poetical Works	26
Moore's Poetical Works	26
" Selections (Illustrated)	26
" Lalla Rookh	17
" Irish Melodies	17
" National Melodies	17
" Sacred Songs (<i>scith Music</i>)	17
" Songs and Ballads	16
Reade's Poetical Works	19
Shakespeare, by Bowdler	20
Southey's Poetical Works	21
Thomson's Seasons, illustrated	22

Political Economy & Statistics.

Macleod's Political Economy	15
M'Culloch's Geog. Statist. &c. Dict.	15
" Dictionary of Commerce	15
Willich's Popular Tables	24

The Sciences in general and Mathematics.

Arago's Meteorological Essays	5
" Popular Astronomy	5
Bourne on the Screw Propeller	6
" 's Catechism of Steam-Engines	6
Boyd's Naval Cadet's Manual	6
Brande's Dictionary of Science, &c.	6
" Lectures on Organic Chemistry	6
Cressy's Civil Engineering	8
Delabèche's Geology of Cornwall, &c.	9
De la Rive's Electricity	9
Grove's Correlation of Physical Forces	10
Herschel's Outlines of Astronomy	11
Holland's Mental Physiology	11
Humboldt's Aspects of Nature	12
" Cosmos	12
Hunt on Light	12
Lardner's Cabinet Cyclopædia	13
Marcet's (Mrs.) Conversations	13
Morvil's Elements of Psychology	17
Moseley's Engineering and Architecture	17
Ogilvie's Master-Builders' Plan	18
Owens's Lectures on Comp. Anatomy	18
Pereira on Polarised Light	18
Peschel's Elements of Physics	18
Phillips's Fossils of Cornwall	18
" Mineralogy	18
" Guide to Geology	18
Portlock's Geology of Londonderry	18
Powell's Unity of Worlds	18
" Christianity without Judaism	18
Smee's Electro-Metallurgy	21
Steam-Engine (The)	6

Rural Sports.

Baker's Rifle and Hound in Ceylon	5
Blaine's Dictionary of Sports	6
Cecil's Stable Practice	6
" Stud Farm	6
Davy's Fishing Excursions, 2 Series	9
Ephemera on Angling	9
" Book of the Salmon	9

Hawker's Young Sportsman	11
The Hunting-Field	10
Idle's Hints on Shooting	12
Pocket and the Stud	10
Practical Horsemanship	10
Pycroft's Cricket-Field	9
Rarey's Horse-Taming	19
Richardson's Horsemanship	19
Ronald's Fly-Fisher's Entomology	20
Stable Talk and Table Talk	10
Stonehenge on the Dog	22
" " Greyhound	22
Thacker's Courser's Guide	22
The Stud, for Practical Purposes	10

Veterinary Medicine, &c.

Cecil's Stable Practice	8
" Stud Farm	10
Hunting-Field (The)	10
Miles's Horse-Shoeing	28
" on the Horse's Foot	28
Pocket and the Stud	10
Practical Horsemanship	10
Rarey's Horse-Taming	19
Richardson's Horsemanship	19
Stable Talk and Table Talk	10
Stonehenge on the Dog	22
Stud (The)	10
Youatt's The Dog	24
" The Horse	24

Voyages and Travels.

Baker's Wanderings in Ceylon	5
Barth's African Travels	5
Burton's East Africa	7
" Medina and Mecca	7
Davies's Visit to Algiers	9
Domesach's Texas and Mexico	9
Forester's Sardinia and Corsica	9
Hinchliff's Travels in the Alps	11
Howitt's Art-Student in Munich	12
" (W.) Victoria	12
Hue's Chinese Empire	12
Hudson and Kennedy's Mont Blanc	12
Humboldt's Aspects of Nature	12
Hutchinson's Western Africa	12
McClure's North-West Passage	16
Mac Dougall's Voyage of the <i>Resolute</i>	18
Osborn's Quædæ	18
Scherzer's Central America	20
Scaward's Narrative	20
Snow's Tierra del Fuego	21
Von Tempeky's Mexico and Guatemala	23
Wanderings in the Land of Ham	24
Weld's Vacations in Ireland	24
" United States and Canada	24

Works of Fiction.

Cruikshank's Falstaff	9
Heira of Cheveleigh	11
Howitt's Tallangatta	12
Moore's Epicuresa	13
Sir Roger De Coverley	21
Sketches (The), Three Tales	21
Southey's Doctor, &c.	21
Trollope's Barchester Towers	22
" Warden	22
Ursula	20

ALPHABETICAL CATALOGUE
of
NEW WORKS and NEW EDITIONS

PUBLISHED BY

LONGMAN, BROWN, GREEN, LONGMANS, & ROBERTS,
PATERNOSTER ROW, LONDON.

- Miss Acton's Modern Cookery** for Private Families, reduced to a System of Easy Practice in a Series of carefully-tested Receipts, in which the Principles of Baron Liebig and other eminent writers have been as much as possible applied and explained. Newly-revised and enlarged Edition; with 8 Plates, comprising 27 Figures, and 150 Woodcuts. Fcp. 8vo. 7s. 6d.
- Acton's English Bread-Book for Domestic Use**, adapted to Families of every grade. Fcp. 8vo. price 4s. 6d.
- Aikin's Select Works of the British Poets** from Ben Jonson to Beattie. New Edition; with Biographical and Critical Prefaces, and Selections from recent Poets. 8vo. 18s.
- Arago (F.)—Biographies of Distinguished Scientific Men.** Translated by Admiral W. H. SMYTH, D.C.L., F.R.S., &c.; the Rev. BADEN POWELL, M.A.; and ROBERT GRANT, M.A., F.R.A.S. 8vo. 18s.
- Arago's Meteorological Essays.** With an Introduction by BARON HUMBOLDT. Translated under the superintendence of Lieut.-Col. E. SABINE, R.A., Treasurer and V.P.R.S. 8vo. 18s.
- Arago's Popular Astronomy.** Translated and edited by Admiral W. H. SMYTH, D.C.L., F.R.S.; and ROBERT GRANT, M.A., F.R.A.S. In Two Volumes. VOL. I. 8vo. with Plates and Woodcuts, 21s.—VOL. II. is in the press.
- Arnold.—Merope, a Tragedy.** By MATTHEW ARNOLD. With a Preface and an Historical Introduction. Fcp. 8vo. 5s.
- Arnold.—Poems.** By MATTHEW ARNOLD. FIRST SERIES, Third Edition. Fcp. 8vo. 5s. 6d. SECOND SERIES, price 5s.
- Lord Bacon's Works. A New Edition**, collected and edited by R. L. ELLIS, M.A., Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge; J. SPEDDING, M.A. of Trinity College, Cambridge; and D. D. HEATH, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, and late Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. VOLS. I. to III. 8vo. 18s. each; VOL. IV. 14s.; and VOL. V. 18s. comprising the Division of *Philosophical Works*; with a copious INDEX.
- VOLS. VI. and VII. comprise BACON'S *Literary and Professional Works*. VOL. VI. price 18s. now ready.
- Joanna Baillie's Dramatic and Poetical Works:** Comprising Plays of the Passions, Miscellaneous Dramas, Metrical Legends, Fugitive Pieces, and Abalya Bae; with the Life of Joanna Baillie, Portrait and Vignette. Square crown 8vo. 21s. cloth; or 42s. morocco.
- Baker.—The Rifle and the Hound** in Ceylon. By S. W. BAKER, Esq. New Edition, with 13 illustrations engraved on Wood. Fcp. 8vo. 4s. 6d.
- Baker.—Eight Years' Wanderings** in Ceylon. By S. W. BAKER, Esq. With 6 coloured Plates. 8vo. 15s.
- Barth.—Travels and Discoveries** in North and Central Africa: Being the Journal of an Expedition undertaken under the auspices of Her Britannic Majesty's Government in the Years 1849—1855. By HENRY BARTH, Ph.D., D.C.L., &c. With numerous Maps and Illustrations. 5 vols. 8vo. 25. 5s. cloth.
- Baylyden's Art of Valuing Rents** and Tillages, and Claims of Tenants upon Quitting Farms, at both Michaelmas and Lady-day; as revised by MR. DONALDSON. *Second Edition*, enlarged and adapted to the Present Time. By ROBERT BAKER, Land Agent and Valuer. 8vo. price 10s. 6d.

- Black's Practical Treatise on Brewing,** based on Chemical and Economical Principles: With Formule for Public Brewers, and Instructions for Private Families. 8vo. 10s. 6d.
- Blaine's Encyclopædia of Rural Sports;** or, a complete Account, Historical, Practical, and Descriptive, of Hunting, Shooting, Fishing, Racing, &c. *New Edition*, revised and corrected to the Present Time; with above 600 Woodcut Illustrations, including 20 Subjects now added from Designs by John Leech.
- Blair's Chronological and Historical Tables,** from the Creation to the Present Time: With Additions and Corrections from the most authentic Writers; including the Computation of St. Paul, as connecting the Period from the Exode to the Temple. Under the revision of Sir HENRY ELLIS, K.H. Imperial 8vo. 31s. 6d. half-morocco.
- Boyd. — A Manual for Naval Cadets.** Published with the sanction and approval of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty. By JOHN M'NEILL BOYD, Captain, R.N. With Compass-Signals in Colours, and 238 Woodcuts. Fcp. 8vo. 10s. 6d.
- Bloomfield. — The Greek Testament:** with copious English Notes, Critical, Philological, and Explanatory. Especially adapted to the use of Theological Students and Ministers. By the Rev. S. T. BLOOMFIELD, D.D., F.S.A. Ninth Edition, revised. 2 vols. 8vo. with Map, £2. 8s.
- Dr. Bloomfield's College & School Edition of the Greek Testament:** With brief English Notes, chiefly Philological and Explanatory. Seventh Edition; with Map and Index. Fcp. 8vo. 7s. 6d.
- Dr. Bloomfield's College & School Lexicon to the Greek Testament.** New Edition, revised. Fcp. 8vo. price 10s. 6d.
- Bourne's Catechism of the Steam Engine** in its various Applications to Mines, Mills, Steam Navigation, Railways, and Agriculture: With Practical Instructions for the Manufacture and Management of Engines of every class. Fourth Edition, enlarged; with 80 Woodcuts. Fcp. 8vo. 6s.
- Bourne. — A Treatise on the Steam Engine,** in its Application to Mines, Mills, Steam Navigation, and Railways. By JOHN BOURNE, C.E. *New Edition*; with 33 Steel Plates, and 349 Wood Engravings. 4to. 27s.
- Bourne. — A Treatise on the Screw Propeller:** With various Suggestions of Improvement. By JOHN BOURNE, C.E. *New Edition*, with 20 large Plates and numerous Wood Engravings. 4to. 35s.
- Brande's Dictionary of Science, Literature, and Art;** comprising the History, Description, and Scientific Principles of every Branch of Human Knowledge; with the Derivation and Definition of all the Terms in general use. Third Edition, revised and corrected; with numerous Woodcuts. 8vo. 62s.
- Professor Brande's Lectures on Organic Chemistry,** as applied to Manufactures, including Dyeing, Bleaching, Calico Printing, Sugar Manufacture, the Preservation of Wood, Tanning, &c. Edited by J. SCOFFEYAN, M.B. Fcp. Woodcuts, 7s. 6d.
- Brewer. — An Atlas of History and Geography,** from the Commencement of the Christian Era to the Present Time: Comprising a Series of Sixteen Coloured Maps, arranged in Chronological Order, with Illustrative Memoirs. By the Rev. J. S. BREWER, M.A. *Second Edition*, revised and corrected. Royal 8vo. 12s. 6d. half-bound.
- Brialmont. — The Life of the Duke of Wellington.** From the French of ALEXIS BRIALMONT, Captain on the Staff of the Belgian Army: With Emendations and Additions. By the Rev. G. R. GLEIG, M.A., Chaplain-General to the Forces and Prebendary of St. Paul's. With Maps, Plans, and Portraits. VOLS. I. and II. 8vo. price 30s. VOL. III. (*complete*) is in preparation.
- Dr. T. Bull's Hints to Mothers** on the Management of their Health during the Period of Pregnancy and in the Lying-in Room: With an Exposure of Popular Errors in connexion with those subjects, &c.; and Hints upon Nursing. *New Edition*. Fcp. 8vo. 5s.
- Bull. — The Maternal Management of Children** in Health and Disease. By T. BULL, M.D., formerly Physician-Accoucheur to the Finsbury Midwifery Institution. *New Edition*. Fcp. 8vo. 5s.

Brodie.—**Psychological Inquiries**, in a Series of Essays intended to illustrate the Influence of the Physical Organisation on the Mental Faculties. By SIR BENJAMIN C. BRODIE, Bart. Third Edition. Fcp. 8vo. 5s.

Bunsen.—**Christianity and Mankind**, their Beginnings and Prospects. By BARON C. C. J. BUNSEN, D.D., D.C.L., D.Ph. Being a New Edition, corrected, re-modelled, and extended, of *Hippolytus and his Age*. 7 vols. 8vo. £5. 5s.

* * * This Edition is composed of three distinct works, as follows:—

1. *Hippolytus and his Age; or, the Beginnings and Prospects of Christianity*. 2 vols. 8vo. £1. 10s.
2. *Outline of the Philosophy of Universal History applied to Language and Religion; containing an Account of the Alphabetical Conference*. 2 vols. 8vo.
3. *Analecta Ante-Nicæna*. 3 vols. 8vo. £2. 2s.

Bunsen.—**Lyra Germanica**. Translated from the German by CATHERINE WINKWORTH. Fifth Edition of the FIRST SERIES, Hymns for the Sundays and Festivals of the Christian Year. SECOND SERIES, the Christian Life. Fcp. 8vo. 5s. each Series.

* * * These selections of German Hymns have been made from collections published in Germany by Baron BUNSEN; and form companion volumes to

Theologia Germanica: Which setteth forth many fair lineaments of Divine Truth, and saith very lofty and lovely things touching a Perfect Life. Translated by SUSANNA WINKWORTH. With a Preface by the Rev. CHARLES KINGSELY; and a Letter by Baron BUNSEN. Third Edition. Fcp. 8vo. 6s.

Bunsen.—**Egypt's Place in Universal History: An Historical Investigation**, in Five Books. By BARON C. C. J. BUNSEN, D.C.L., D.Ph. Translated from the German by C. H. CORTELL, Esq., M.A. With many Illustrations. VOL. I. 8vo. 2s.; VOL. II. 8vo. 30s. VOLS. III. IV. and V. completing the work, are in the press.

Bishop Butler's Sketch of Modern and Ancient Geography. New Edition, thoroughly revised, with such Alterations introduced as continually progressive Discoveries and the latest Information have rendered necessary. Post 8vo. 7s. 6d.

Bishop Butler's General Atlas of Modern and Ancient Geography; comprising Fifty-two full-coloured Maps; with complete Indices. New Edition, enlarged, and greatly improved. Edited by the Author's Son. Royal 4to. 24s.

Burton.—**First Footsteps in East Africa; or, an Exploration of Harar.** By RICHARD F. BURTON, Captain, Bombay Army. With Maps and coloured Plate. 8vo. 18s.

Burton.—**Personal Narrative of a Pilgrimage to El Medinah and Meccah.** By RICHARD F. BURTON, Captain, Bombay Army. Second Edition, revised; with coloured Plates and Woodcuts. 2 vols. crown 8vo. 24s.

The Cabinet Lawyer: A Popular Digest of the Laws of England, Civil and Criminal; with a Dictionary of Law Terms, Maxims, Statutes, and Judicial Antiquities; Correct Tables of Assessed Taxes, Stamp Duties, Excise Licenses, and Post-Horse Duties; Post-Office Regulations; and Prison Discipline. 17th Edition, comprising the Public Acts of the Session 1858. Fcp. 8vo. 10s. 6d.

The Cabinet Gazetteer: A Popular Exposition of All the Countries of the World. By the Author of *The Cabinet Lawyer*. Fcp. 8vo. 10s. 6d.

Calendars of State Papers, Domestic Series, published under the Direction of the Master of the Rolls, and with the Sanction of H.M. Secretary of State for the Home Department:

The Reign of JAMES I. 1603-23, edited by Mrs. GREEN. VOLS. I. to III. Imperial 8vo. 15s. each.

The Reign of CHARLES I. 1625-26, edited by JOHN BRUCE, V.P.S.A. Imperial 8vo. 15s.

The Reigns of EDWARD VI., MARY, ELIZABETH, 1547-80, edited by R. LEMON, Esq. Imperial 8vo. 15s.

Historical Notes relative to the History of England, from the Accession of HENRY VIII. to the Death of ANNE (1509-1714), compiled by F. S. THOMAS, Esq. 3 vols. Imperial 8vo. 40s.

State Papers relating to SCOTLAND, from the Reign of HENRY VIII. to the Accession of JAMES I. (1509-1603), and of the Correspondence relating to MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS, during her Captivity in England, edited by M. J. THORPE, Esq. 2 vols. Imperial 8vo. 30s.

Calvert. — *The Wife's Manual*; or, Prayers, Thoughts, and Songs on Several Occasions of a Matron's Life. By the Rev. W. CALVERT, M.A. Ornamented from Designs by the Author in the style of *Queen Elizabeth's Prayer-Book*. Crown 8vo. 10s. 6d.

Catlow's Popular Conchology; or, the Shell Cabinet arranged according to the Modern System: With a detailed Account of the Animals, and a complete Descriptive List of the Families and Genera of Recent and Fossil Shells. Second Edition, improved; with 405 Woodcuts. Post 8vo. 14s.

Cecil. — *The Stud Farm*; or, Hints on Breeding Horses for the Turf, the Chase, and the Road. Addressed to Breeders of Race-Horses and Hunters, Landed Proprietors, and Tenant Farmers. By CECIL. Fcp. 8vo. 5s.

Cecil's Stable Practice; or, Hints on Training for the Turf, the Chase, and the Road; with Observations on Racing and Hunting, Wasting, Race-Riding, and Handicapping: Addressed to all who are concerned in Racing, Steeple-Chasing, and Fox-Hunting. Fcp. 8vo. with Plate, 5s.

Chronicles and Memorials of Great Britain and Ireland during the Middle Ages, published by the authority of H. M. Treasury under the Direction of the Master of the Rolls:—

Capgrave's Chronicle of England, edited by the Rev. F. C. HINGESTON, M.A. Royal 8vo. 8s. 6d.

Chronicon Monasterii de Abingdon, edited by the Rev. J. SYMONSON, M.A. Vol. I. royal 8vo. 8s. 6d.

Lives of Edward the Confessor, edited by the Rev. H. B. LUARD, M.A. 8s. 6d.

Monumenta Franciscana, edited by the Rev. J. S. BREWER, M.A. 8s. 6d.

Faciculi Zitanorum Magistri Johannis Wycliff cum Trinitate, edited by the Rev. W. W. SHIRLEY, M.A. 8s. 6d.

Stewart's Bulk of the Cronicles of Scotland, edited by W. B. TURNBULL, Barrister. Vol. I. royal 8vo. 8s. 6d.

Johannis Capgrave Liber de Illustribus Henricis, edited by the Rev. F. C. HINGESTON, M.A. Royal 8vo. 8s. 6d.

English Translation of Capgrave's *Book of the Illustrous Henries*, by the Rev. F. C. HINGESTON, M.A. 10s. 6d.

Elmham's Historia de Monasterii S. Augustini Cantuarrensis, edited by the V. C. HARDWICK, M.A. 8s. 6d.

Chapman. — *History of Gustavus Adolphus, and of the Thirty Years' War up to the King's Death: With some Account of its Conclusion by the Peace of Westphalia, in 1648*. By B. CHAPMAN, M.A. 8vo. Plans, 12s. 6d.

Chevrenl On the Harmony and Contrast of Colours, and their Applications to the Arts: Including Painting, Interior Decoration, Tapestries, Carpets, Mosaics, Coloured Glazing, Paper-Staining, Calico-Printing, Letterpress-Printing, Map-Colouring, Dress, Landscape and Flower-Gardening, &c. &c. Translated by CHARLES MARTIN. With 4 Plates. Crown 8vo. 10s. 6d.

Connolly. — *History of the Royal Sappers and Miners: Including the Services of the Corps in the Crimes and at the Siege of Sebastopol*. By T. W. J. CONNOLLY, Quartermaster of the Royal Engineers. Second Edition; with 17 coloured Plates. 2 vols. 8vo. 30s.

Conybeare and Howson's Life and Epistles of Saint Paul: Comprising a complete Biography of the Apostle, and a Translation of his Epistles inserted in Chronological Order. Third Edition, revised and corrected; with several Maps and Woodcuts, and 4 Plates. 2 vols. square crown 8vo. 31s. 6d.
* The Original Edition, with more numerous Illustrations, in 2 vols. 8vo. price 65s. — may also be had.

Dr. Copland's Dictionary of Practical Medicine: Comprising General Pathology, the Nature and Treatment of Diseases, Morbid Structures, and the Disorders especially incidental to Climates, to Sex, and to the different Epochs of Life; with numerous approved Formulas of the Medicines recommended. Now complete in 3 vols. 8vo. price 25s. 11s. cloth.

Bishop Cotton's Instructions in the Doctrine and Practice of Christianity. Intended as an Introduction to Confirmation. 4th Edition, 18mo. 2s. 6d.

Crey's Encyclopedia of Civil Engineering, Historical, Theoretical, and Practical. Illustrated by upwards of 3,000 Woodcuts. Second Edition, revised; and extended in a Supplement, comprising Metropolitan Water-Supply, Drainage of Towns, Railways, Cubical Proportion, Brick and Iron Construction, Iron Screw Piles, Tubular Bridges, &c. 8vo. 65s.

Crosse.—**Memorials, Scientific and Literary,** of Andrew Crosse, the Electrician. Edited by Mrs. CROSSE. Post 8vo. 2s. 6d.

Crowe.—**The History of France.** By ERNEST CROWE. In Five Volumes. Vol. I. 8vo. 14s.

Cruikshank.—**The Life of Sir John Falstaff.** Illustrated in a Series of Twenty-four original Etchings by George Cruikshank. Accompanied by an imaginary Biography of the Knight, by ROBERT B. BROWNE. Royal 8vo. price 12s. 6d. cloth.

Lady Cust's Invalid's Own Book : A Collection of Recipes from various Books and various Countries. *Second Edition.* Fcp. 8vo. 2s. 6d.

The Rev. Canon Dale's Domestic Liturgy and Family Chaplain, in Two Parts: PART I. Church Services adapted for Domestic Use, with Prayers for Every Day of the Week, selected from the Book of Common Prayer; PART II. an appropriate Sermon for Every Sunday in the Year. *Second Edition.* Post 4to. 21s. cloth; 31s. 6d. calf; or 22. 10s. morocco.

Separately { THE FAMILY CHAPLAIN, 12s.
THE DOMESTIC LITURGY,
10s. 6d.

Davies.—**Algiers in 1857; Its Accessibility, Climate, and Resources** described with especial reference to English Invalids; with details of Recreation obtainable in its Neighbourhood added for the use of Travellers in general. By the Rev. E. W. L. DAVIES, M.A. Oxon. Post 8vo. 6s.

Delabèche.—**Report on the Geology of Cornwall, Devon, and West Somerset.** By Sir H. T. DELABÈCHE, F.R.S. With Maps, Plates, and Woodcuts. 8vo. 14s.

Davy (Dr. J.)—**The Angler and his Friend; or, Piscatory Colloquies and Fishing Excursions.** By JOHN DAVY, M.D., F.R.S., &c. Fcp. 8vo. 6s.

By the same Author,

The Angler in the Lake District; or, Piscatory Colloquies and Fishing Excursions in Westmoreland and Cumberland. Fcp. 8vo. 6s. 6d.

De la Rive's Treatise on Electricity in Theory and Practice. Translated for the Author by C. V. WALKER, F.R.S. 3 vols. 8vo. Woodcuts, 23. 13s.

Abbe' Domenech's Missionary Adventures in Texas and Mexico: A Personal Narrative of Six Years' Sojourn in those Regions. Translated from the French under the Author's superintendance. 8vo. 10s. 6d.

The Eclipse of Faith; or, a Visit to a Religious Sceptic. 9th Edition. Fcp. 8vo. 6s.

Defence of The Eclipse of Faith, by its Author: Being a Rejoinder to Professor Newman's *Reply*: Including a full Examination of that Writer's Criticism on the Character of Christ; and a Chapter on the Aspects and Pretensions of Modern Deism. *Second Edition,* revised. Post 8vo. 5s. 6d.

The Englishman's Greek Concordance of the New Testament: Being an Attempt at a Verbal Connection between the Greek and the English Texts; including a Concordance to the Proper Names, with Indexes, Greek-English and English-Greek. *New Edition,* with a new Index. Royal 8vo. 42s.

The Englishman's Hebrew and Chaldaee Concordance of the Old Testament: Being an Attempt at a Verbal Connection between the Original and the English Translations; with Indexes, a List of the Proper Names and their Occurrences, &c. 2 vols. royal 8vo. 23. 13s. 6d.; large paper, 24. 14s. 6d.

Ephemera's Handbook of Angling; teaching Fly-fishing, Trolling, Bottom-Fishing, Salmon-Fishing: With the Natural History of River-Fish, and the best Modes of Catching them. *Third Edition,* corrected and improved; with Woodcuts. Fcp. 8vo. 6s.

Ephemera's Book of the Salmon: The Theory, Principles, and Practice of Fly-Fishing for Salmon; Lists of good Salmon Flies for every good River in the Empire; the Natural History of the Salmon, its Habits described, and the best way of artificially Breeding it. Fcp. 8vo. with coloured Plates, 14s.

Fairbairn.—**Useful Information for Engineers:** Being a Series of Lectures delivered to the Working Engineers of Yorkshire and Lancashire. By WILLIAM FAIRBAIRN, F.R.S., F.G.S. *Second Edition;* with Plates and Woodcuts. Crown 8vo. 10s. 6d.

Fischer.—**Francois Bacon of Verulam: Realistic Philosophy and its Age.** By Dr. K. FISCHER. Translated by JOHN OXFORD. Post 8vo. 9s. 6d.

- Forester.**—*Rambles in the Islands of Corsica and Sardinia: With Notices of their History, Antiquities, and present Condition.* By THOMAS FORESTER. With coloured Map; and numerous Lithographic and Woodcut Illustrations from Drawings made during the Tour by Lieut.-Col. M. A. Biddulph, B.A. Imperial 8vo. 28s.
- Garratt.**—*Marvels and Mysteries of Instinct; or, Curiosities of Animal Life.* By GEORGE GARRATT. *Second Edition*, improved. Fcp. 8vo. 4s. 6d.
- Gilbart.**—*A Practical Treatise on Banking.* By JAMES WILLIAM GILBERT, F.R.S., General Manager of the London and Westminster Bank. *Sixth Edition.* 2 vols. 12mo. 10s.
- Gilbart.**—*Logic for the Million: a Familiar Exposition of the Art of Reasoning.* By J. W. GILBERT, F.R.S. 5th Edition; with Portrait. 12mo. 2s. 6d.
- Gleig.**—*Essays, Biographical, Historical, and Miscellaneous, contributed chiefly to the Edinburgh and Quarterly Reviews.* By the Rev. G. R. GLEIG, M.A., Chaplain-General to the Forces, and Prebendary of St. Paul's. 3 vols. 8vo. price 21s.
- The Poetical Works of Oliver Goldsmith.** Edited by BOLTON CORNEY, Esq. Illustrated by Wood Engravings, from Designs by Members of the Etching Club. Square crown 8vo. cloth, 21s.; morocco, 21. 15s.
- Gosse.**—*A Naturalist's Sojourn in Jamaica.* By P. H. GOSSE, Esq. With Plates. Post 8vo. 14s.
- Greathed.**—*Letters from Delhi during the Siege.* By H. H. GREATHED, Esq., Political Agent. Post 8vo.
- Green.**—*Lives of the Princesses of England.* By Mrs. MARY ANNE EVERETT GREEN, Editor of the *Letters of Royal and Illustrious Ladies.* With numerous Portraits. Complete in 6 vols. post 8vo. 10s. 6d. each.
- Greyson.**—*Selections from the Correspondence of R. E. GREYSON, Esq.* Edited by the Author of *The Scipios of Faith.* New Edition. Crown 8vo. 7s. 6d.
- Grove.**—*The Correlation of Physical Forces.* By W. R. GROVE, Q.C., M.A. *Third Edition.* 8vo. 7s.
- Gurney.**—*St. Louis and Henri IV.: Being a Second Series of Historical Sketches.* By the Rev. JOHN H. GURNEY, M.A. Fcp. 8vo. 6s.
- Evening Recreations; or, Samples from the Lecture-Room.** Edited by Rev. J. H. GURNEY. Crown 8vo. 5s.
- Gwilt's Encyclopedia of Architecture, Historical, Theoretical, and Practical.** By JOSEPH GWILT. With more than 1,000 Wood Engravings, from Designs by J. S. GWILT. 8vo. 42s.
- Hare (Archdeacon).**—*The Life of Luther, in Forty-eight Historical Engravings.* By GEORGE HARE. With Explanations by Archdeacon HARE and SUSANNAH WINKWORTER. Fcp. 4to. 23s.
- Harford.**—*Life of Michael Angelo Buonarroti: . With Translations of many of his Poems and Letters; also Memoirs of Savonarola, Raphael, and Vittoria Colonna.* By JOHN S. HARFORD, Esq., D.C.L., F.R.S. *Second Edition*, revised; with 50 Plates. 3 vols. 8vo. 25s.
- Illustrations, Architectural and Pictorial, of the Genies of Michael Angelo Buonarroti.** With Descriptions of the Plates, by the Commandatore CAVINA; C. B. COCKERELL, Esq., R.A.; and J. S. HARFORD, Esq., D.C.L., F.R.S. Folio, 73s. 6d. half-bound.
- Harrison.**—*The Light of the Forge; or, Counsels from the Sick-Bed of E.M.* By the Rev. W. HARRISON, M.A., Domestic Chaplain to the Duchess of Cambridge. Fcp. 8vo. 5s.
- Harry Hieover's Stable Talk and Table Talk; or, Spectacles for Young Sportsmen.** New Edition, 2 vols. 8vo. Portrait, 2s.
- Harry Hieover.—The Hunting-Field.** By HARRY HIEOVER. With Two Plates. Fcp. 8vo. 5s. half-bound.
- Harry Hieover.—Practical Horsemanship.** *Second Edition*; with 2 Plates. Fcp. 8vo. 5s. half-bound.
- Harry Hieover.—The Pocket and the Stud; or, Practical Hints on the Management of the Stable.** By HARRY HIEOVER. Fcp. 8vo. Portrait, 5s.
- Harry Hieover.—The Stud, for Practical Purposes and Practical Men: Being a Guide to the Choice of a Horse for use more than for show.** Fcp. 5s.

Hassall.—A History of the British Freshwater Algae: including Descriptions of the Desmidiæ and Diatomææ. By ARTHUR HILL HASSALL, M.D. 2 vols. 8vo. with 108 Plates, £1. 15s.

Hassall.—Adulterations Detected; or, Plain Instructions for the Discovery of Frauds in Food and Medicine. By ARTHUR HILL HASSALL, M.D. Lond., Analyst of *The Lancet* Sanitary Commission, and Author of the Reports of that Commission published under the title of *Food and its Adulterations* (which may also be had, in 8vo. price 25s.) With 235 Illustrations, engraved on Wood. Crown 8vo. 17s. 6d.

Col. Hawker's Instructions to Young Sportsmen in all that relates to Guns and Shooting. 10th Edition, revised by the Author's Son, Major P. W. L. HAWKER. With Portrait, Plates, and Woodcuts. 8vo. 21s.

Haydn's Book of Dignities: Containing Rolls of the Official Personages of the British Empire, Civil, Ecclesiastical, Judicial, Military, Naval, and Municipal, from the Earliest Periods to the Present Time. Together with the Sovereigns of Europe, from the Foundation of their respective States; the Peers and Nobility of Great Britain, &c. 8vo. 25s.

Hayward.—Biographical and Critical Essays, reprinted from Reviews, with Additions and Corrections. By A. HAYWARD, Esq., Q.C. 2 vols. 8vo. 24s.

The Heirs of Cheveleigh: A Novel. By GEORGE ABBOTT. 3 vols. post 8vo. 31s. 6d.

Sir John Herschel's Outlines of Astronomy. Fifth Edition, revised and corrected to the existing state of astronomical knowledge; with Plates and Woodcuts. 8vo. 18s.

Sir John Herschel's Essays from the *Edinburgh* and *Quarterly Reviews*, with Addresses and other Pieces. 8vo. 18s.

Hinchliff.—Summer Months among the Alps: With the Ascent of Monte Rosa. By THOS. W. HINCHLIFF, Barrister-at-Law. Post 8vo. 10s. 6d.

Hints on Etiquette and the Usages of Society: With a Glance at Bad Habits. New Edition, revised (with Additions) by a Lady of Rank. Fcp. 8vo. 2s. 6d.

Holland.—Medical Notes and Reflections. By SIR HENRY HOLLAND, M.D., F.R.S., &c., Physician in Ordinary to the Queen and Prince-Consort. Third Edition. 8vo. 18s.

Holland.—Chapters on Mental Physiology. By SIR HENRY HOLLAND, Bart., F.R.S., &c. Founded chiefly on Chapters contained in *Medical Notes and Reflections* by the same Author. Second Edition. Post 8vo. 8s. 6d.

Hooker.—Kew Gardens; or, a Popular Guide to the Royal Botanic Gardens of Kew. By SIR WILLIAM JACKSON HOOKER, K.H., &c., Director. With many Woodcuts. 16mo. 6d.

Hooker's Museum of Economic Botany; or, Popular Guide to the Useful and Remarkable Vegetable Products of the Museum in the Royal Gardens of Kew. 16mo. 1s.

Hooker and Arnott's British Flora; comprising the Phanogamous or Flowering Plants, and the Ferns. Seventh Edition, with Additions and Corrections; and numerous Figures illustrative of the Umbelliferous Plants, the Composite Plants, the Grasses, and the Ferns. 12mo. with 12 Plates, 14s.; with the Plates coloured, 21s.

Horne's Introduction to the Critical Study and Knowledge of the Holy Scriptures. *Tenth Edition*, revised, corrected, and brought down to the present time. Edited by the Rev. T. HARTWELL HORNE, B.D. (the Author); the Rev. SAMUEL DAVIDSON, D.D. of the University of Halle, and LL.D.; and S. FREDERIX TERGELLE, LL.D. With 4 Maps and 22 Vignettes and Facsimiles. 4 vols. 8vo. £3. 13s. 6d.

Horne.—A Compendious Introduction to the study of the Bible. By the Rev. T. HARTWELL HORNE, B.D. New Edition, with Maps, &c. 12mo. 9s.

Hoskyns.—Talpa; or, the Chronicles of a Clay Farm: An Agricultural Fragment. By CHANDOS WARREN HOSKYN, Esq. Fourth Edition. With 24 Woodcuts from Designs by GEORGE CRUIKSHANK. 16mo. 5s. 6d.

- How to Nurse Sick Children:** Intended especially as a Help to the Nurses in the Hospital for Sick Children; but containing Directions of service to all who have the charge of the Young. Fcp. 8vo. 1s. 6d.
- Howitt (A. M.)—An Art-Student in Munich.** By ANNA MARY HOWITT. 2 vols. post 8vo. 14s.
- Howitt.—The Children's Year.** By MARY HOWITT. With Four Illustrations. Square 16mo. 5s.
- Howitt.—Tallangetta, the Squatter's Home: A Story of Australian Life.** By WILLIAM HOWITT. 2 vols. post 8vo. 18s.
- Howitt.—Land, Labour, and Gold; or, Two Years in Victoria: With Visit to Sydney and Van Diemen's Land.** By WILLIAM HOWITT. Second Edition. 2 vols. crown 8vo. 10s.
- W. Howitt's Visits to Remarkable Places:** Old Halls, Battle-Fields, and Scenes illustrative of Striking Passages in English History and Poetry. With about 80 Wood Engravings. *New Edition.* 2 vols. square crown 8vo. 25s.
- William Howitt's Boy's Country Book:** Being the Real Life of a Country Boy, written by himself; exhibiting all the Amusements, Pleasures, and Pursuits of Children in the Country. With 40 Woodcuts. Fcp. 8vo. 6s.
- William Howitt's Rural Life of England.** With Woodcuts by Bewick and Williams. Medium 8vo. 21s.
- Huc.—Christianity in China, Tartary, and Thibet.** By M. l'Abbé HUC, formerly Missionary Apostle in China. Vols. I. and II. 8vo. 21s.; and Vol. III 10s. 6d.
- Huc.—The Chinese Empire:** A Sequel to Huc and Gabet's *Journey through Tartary and Thibet.* By the Abbé HUC, formerly Missionary Apostle in China. *Second Edition;* with Map. 2 vols. 8vo. 24s.
- Hudson and Kennedy's Ascent of Mont Blanc by a New Route and Without Guides.** *Second Edition,* with Plate and Map. Post 8vo. 5s. 6d.
- Hudson's Plain Directions for Making Wills in conformity with the Law:** With a clear Exposition of the Law relating to the distribution of Personal Estate in the case of Intestacy, two Forms of Wills, and much useful information. Fcp. 8vo. 2s. 6d.
- Hudson's Executor's Guide.** New and improved Edition; with the Statutes enacted, and the Judicial Decisions pronounced since the last Edition incorporated. Fcp. 8vo. 6s.
- Humboldt's Cosmos. Translated,** with the Author's authority, by Mrs. SABINE. Vols. I. and II. 16mo. Half-Crown each, sewed; 3s. 6d. each, cloth; or in post 8vo. 12s. each, cloth. Vol. III. post 8vo. 12s. 6d. cloth; or in 16mo. Part I. 2s. 6d. sewed, 3s. 6d. cloth; and Part II. 3s. sewed, 4s. cloth. Vol. IV. PART I. post 8vo. 15s. cloth; 16mo. 7s. 6d. cloth.
- Humboldt's Aspects of Nature.** Translated, with the Author's authority, by Mrs. SABINE. 16mo. price 6s.; or in 2 vols. 8s. 6d. each, cloth; 2s. 6d. each, sewed.
- Humphreys.—Parables of Our Lord,** illuminated and ornamented in the style of the Missals of the Renaissance by H. N. HUMPHREYS. Square fop. 8vo. 21s. in massive carved covers; or 30s. bound in morocco, by Hayday.
- Hunt.—Researches on Light in its Chemical Relations;** embracing a Consideration of all the Photographic Processes. By ROBERT HUNT, F.R.S. Second Edition, with Plate and Woodcuts. 8vo. 10s. 6d.
- Hutchinson.—Impressions of Western Africa:** With a Report on the Peculiarities of Trade up the Rivers in the Bight of Biafra. By J. T. HUTCHINSON, Esq., British Consul for the Bight of Biafra and the Island of Fernando Po. Post 8vo. 8s. 6d.
- Idle.—Hints on Shooting, Fishing &c.,** both on Sea and Land, and in the Fresh-Water Lochs of Scotland: Being the Experiences of C. IDLE, Esq. Fcp. 8vo. 5s.
- Mrs. Jameson's Legends of the Saints and Martyrs,** as represented in Christian Art: Forming the FIRST SERIES of *Sacred and Legendary Art.* Third Edition; with 17 Etchings and upwards of 180 Woodcuts. 2 vols. square crown 8vo. 31s. 6d.

Mrs. Jameson's Legends of the Monastic Orders, as represented in Christian Art. Forming the **SECOND SERIES of Sacred and Legendary Art**. Second Edition, enlarged; with 11 Etchings by the Author and 88 Woodcuts. Square crown 8vo. 25s.

Mrs. Jameson's Legends of the Madonna, as represented in Christian Art; Forming the **THIRD SERIES of Sacred and Legendary Art**. Second Edition, corrected and enlarged; with 27 Etchings and 165 Wood Engravings. Square crown 8vo. 25s.

Mrs. Jameson's Commonplace-Book of Thoughts, Memories, and Fancies, Original and Selected. *Second Edition*, revised and corrected; with Etchings and Woodcuts. Crown 8vo. price 18s.

Mrs. Jameson's Two Lectures on the Employment of Women:—

1. **SOURCES of CHARITY**, Catholic and Protestant, Abroad and at Home. *Second Edition*, with new Preface. Fcp. 8vo. 4s.
2. **THE COMMUNION of LABOUR: A Second Lecture on the Social Employments of Women**. Fcp. 8vo. 3s.

Jaquemet's Compendium of Chronology: Containing the most important Dates of General History, Political, Ecclesiastical, and Literary, from the Creation of the World to the end of the Year 1854. Post 8vo. 7s. 6d.

Jaquemet's Chronology for Schools: Containing the most important Dates of General History, Political, Ecclesiastical, and Literary, from the Creation of the World to the end of the Year 1857. Fcp. 8vo. 3s. 6d.

Lord Jeffrey's Contributions to The Edinburgh Review. A New Edition, complete in One Volume, with Portrait and Vignette. Square crown 8vo. 11s. cloth; or 30s. calf.—Or in 3 vols. 8vo. price 42s.

Bishop Jeremy Taylor's Entire Works: With Life by Bishop HERRIS. Revised and corrected by the Rev. CHARLES PAGE EDEN, Fellow of Oriel College, Oxford. Now complete in 10 vols. 8vo. 10s. 6d. each.

Kemble. — The Saxons in England: A History of the English Commonwealth till the Conquest. By J. M. KEMBLE, M.A. 2 vols. 8vo. 25s.

Kaith Johnston's Dictionary of Geography, Descriptive, Physical, Statistical, and Historical: Forming a complete General Gazetteer of the World. *Second Edition*, thoroughly revised. In 1 vol. of 1,300 pages, comprising about 50,000 Names of Places, 8vo. 36s. cloth; or half-bound in russia, 41s.

Kesteven. — A Manual of the Domestic Practice of Medicine. By W. B. KESTVEN, F.R.C.S.E., &c. Square post 8vo. 7s. 6d.

Kirby and Spence's Introduction to Entomology; or, Elements of the Natural History of Insects: Comprising an Account of Noxious and Useful Insects, of their Metamorphoses, Food, Stratagems, Habitations, Societies, Motions, Noises, Hibernation, Instinct, &c. *Seventh Edition*, with an Appendix relative to the Origin and Progress of the work. Crown 8vo. 5s.

Lardner's Cabinet Cyclopaedia of History, Biography, Literature, the Arts and Sciences, Natural History, and Manufactures. A Series of Original Works by EMINENT WRITERS. Complete in 132 vols. fcp. 8vo. with Vignette Titles, price £19. 19s. cloth lettered.

The Works *separately*, in single Volumes or Sets, price 3s. 6d. each Volume, cloth lettered.

Mrs. R. Lee's Elements of Natural History; or, First Principles of Zoology: Comprising the Principles of Classification, interspersed with amusing and instructive Accounts of the most remarkable Animals. New Edition; Woodcuts. Fcp. 8vo. 7s. 6d.

The Letters of a Betrothed. Fcp. 8vo. price 5s. cloth.

Letters to my Unknown Friends. By a LADY, Author of *Letters on Happiness*. *Fourth Edition*. Fcp. 8vo. 5s.

Letters on Happiness, addressed to a Friend. By the Author of *Letters to my Unknown Friends*. Fcp. 8vo. 6s.

L.E.L. — The Poetical Works of Letitia Elizabeth Landon; comprising the *Improvisatrice*, the *Venetian Bracelet*, the *Golden Violet*, the *Troubadour*, and *Poetical Remains*. 2 vols. 16mo. 10s. cloth; morocco, 21s.

Dr. John Lindley's Theory and Practice of Horticulture; or, an Attempt to explain the principal Operations of Gardening upon Physiological Grounds: Being the Second Edition of the *Theory of Horticulture*, much enlarged; with 98 Woodcuts. 8vo. 21s.

Dr. John Lindley's Introduction to Botany. New Edition, with corrections and copious Additions. 2 vols. 8vo. with Plates and Woodcuts, 24s.

Linwood. — Anthologia Oxoniensis, sive Florilegium e Lusibus poetis diversorum Oxoniensium Græci et Latini decerptum. Curante GULIELMO LINWOOD, M.A. 8vo. 14s.

Lorimer's Letters to a Young Master Mariner on some Subjects connected with his Calling. Fcp. 8vo. price 5s. 6d.

Loudon's Encyclopædia of Gardening: Comprising the Theory and Practice of Horticulture, Floriculture, Arboriculture, and Landscape-Gardening. With 1,000 Woodcuts. 8vo. 56s.

Loudon's Encyclopædia of Trees and Shrubs, or *Arboræta et Fruticetorum Britannicorum* abridged: Containing the Hardy Trees and Shrubs of Great Britain, Native and Foreign, Scientifically and Popularly Described. With about 2,000 Woodcuts. 8vo. 50s.

Loudon's Encyclopædia of Agriculture: Comprising the Theory and Practice of the Valuation, Transfer, Laying-out, Improvement, and Management of Landed Property, and of the Cultivation and Economy of the Animal and Vegetable Productions of Agriculture. With 1,100 Woodcuts. 8vo. 31s. 6d.

Loudon's Encyclopædia of Plants: Comprising the Specific Character, Description, Culture, History, Application in the Arts, and every other desirable Particular respecting all the Plants found in Great Britain. With upwards of 12,000 Woodcuts. 8vo. price £3. 13s. 6d.

Loudon's Encyclopædia of Cottages, Farm, and Villa Architecture and Furniture. New Edition, edited by Mrs. LOUDON; with more than 2,000 Woodcuts. 8vo. 63s.

Loudon's Hortus Britannicus; or, Catalogue of all the Plants found in Great Britain. New Edition, corrected by Mrs. LOUDON. 8vo. 31s. 6d.

Mrs. Loudon's Lady's Country Companion; or, How to Enjoy a Country Life Rationally. Fourth Edition. Fcp. 8vo. 5s.

Mrs. Loudon's Amateur Gardener's Calendar, or Monthly Guide to what should be avoided and done in a Garden. Second Edition, revised. Crown 8vo. with Woodcuts, 7s. 6d.

Low's Elements of Practical Agriculture; comprehending the Cultivation of Plants, the Husbandry of the Domestic Animals, and the Economy of the Farm. New Edition; with 200 Woodcuts. 8vo. 31s.

Macaulay. — Speeches of the Right Hon. Lord MACAULAY. Corrected by HIMSELF. 8vo. 12s.

Macaulay. — The History of England from the Accession of James II. By the Right Hon. Lord MACAULAY. New Edition. Vols. I. and II. 8vo. 32s.; Vols. III. and IV. 30s.

Lord Macaulay's History of England from the Accession of James II. New Edition of the first Four Volumes of the Octavo Edition, revised and corrected. 7 vols. post 8vo. 6s. each.

Lord Macaulay's Critical and Historical Essays contributed to The Edinburgh Review. Four Editions:—

1. A LIBRARY EDITION (the Eighth), in 3 vols. 8vo. price 36s.
2. Complete in ONE VOLUME, with Portrait and Vignette. Square crown 8vo. price 21s. cloth; or 50s. calf.
3. ANOTHER NEW EDITION, in 3 vols. 8vo. price 31s. cloth.
4. THE PEOPLE'S EDITION, in 2 vols. crown 8vo. price 6s. cloth.

Macaulay. — Lays of Ancient Rome, with *Irry* and the *Armada*. By the Right Hon. Lord MACAULAY. New Edition. 16mo. price 4s. 6d. cloth; or 10s. 6d. bound in morocco.

Lord Macaulay's Lays of Ancient Rome. With numerous Illustrations, Original and from the Antique, drawn on Wood by George Scharf, Jun. Fcp. 4to. 21s. boards; or 48s. bound in morocco.

Mac Donald. — Poems. By George MAC DONALD, Author of *Within and Without*. Fcp. 8vo. 7s.

- Mac Donald.** — *Within and Without: A Dramatic Poem.* By GEORGE MACDONALD. Fcp. 8vo. 4s. 6d.
- Mac Dougall.** — *The Theory of War* illustrated by numerous Examples from History. By Lieutenant-Colonel MAC DOUGALL, Commandant of the Staff College. *Second Edition*, revised. Post 8vo. with Plans, 10s. 6d.
- Mac Dougall.** — *The Campaigns of Hannibal*, arranged and critically considered, expressly for the use of Students of Military History. By Lieut.-Col. P. L. MAC DOUGALL, Commandant of the Staff College. Post 8vo. 7s. 6d.
- M'Dougall.** — *The Eventful Voyage of H.M. Discovery Ship Resolute to the Arctic Regions in search of Sir John Franklin and the Missing Crews of H.M. Discovery Ships Erebus and Terror, 1862, 1863, 1864.* By GEORGE F. M'DOUGALL, Master. With a coloured Chart, Illustrations in Lithography, and Woodcuts. 8vo. 21s.
- Sir James Mackintosh's Miscellaneous Works:** Including his Contributions to The Edinburgh Review. Complete in One Volume; with Portrait and Vignette. Square crown 8vo. 21s. cloth; or 30s. bound in calf; or in 3 vols. fcp. 8vo. 21s.
- Sir James Mackintosh's History of England** from the Earliest Times to the final Establishment of the Reformation. 2 vols. 8vo. 21s.
- Macleod.** — *The Elements of Political Economy.* By HENRY DUNNING MACLEOD, Barrister-at-Law. 8vo. 16s.
- Macleod.** — *The Theory and Practice of Banking:* With the Elementary Principles of Currency, Prices, Credit, and Exchanges. By HENRY DUNNING MACLEOD, Barrister-at-Law. 2 vols. royal 8vo. 30s.
- M'ulloch's Dictionary, Practical, Theoretical, and Historical, of Commerce, and Commercial Navigation.** Illustrated with Maps and Plans. New Edition, corrected; with Supplement. 8vo. 50s. cloth; half-russia, 55s.
- M'ulloch's Dictionary, Geographical, Statistical, and Historical, of the various Countries, Places, and principal Natural Objects in the World.** Illustrated with Six large Maps. New Edition, revised. 2 vols. 8vo. 63s.
- Maguire.** — *Rome; its Ruler and its Institutions.* By JOHN FRANCIS MAGUIRE, M.P. With a Portrait of Pope Pius IX. Post 8vo. 10s. 6d.
- Mrs. Marcet's Conversations on Natural Philosophy**, in which the Elements of that Science are familiarly explained. Thirteenth Edition, enlarged and corrected; with 34 Plates. Fcp. 8vo. price 10s. 6d.
- Mrs. Marcet's Conversations on Chemistry**, in which the Elements of that Science are familiarly explained and illustrated by Experiments. New Edition, improved. 2 vols. fcp. 8vo. 14s.
- Martineau.** — *Studies of Christianity: A Series of Original Papers*, now first collected, or New. By JAMES MARTINEAU. Crown 8vo. 7s. 6d.
- Martineau.** — *Endeavours after the Christian Life: Discourses.* By JAMES MARTINEAU. 3 vols. post 8vo. price 7s. 6d. each.
- Martineau.** — *Hymns for the Christian Church and Home.* Collected and edited by JAMES MARTINEAU. *Eleventh Edition*, 12mo. 2s. 6d. cloth, or 5s. calf; *Fifth Edition*, 32mo. 1s. 6d. cloth, or 1s. 8d. roan.
- Martineau.** — *Miscellanies: Comprising Essays chiefly religious and controversial.* By JAMES MARTINEAU. Crown 8vo. 9s.
- Maunder's Scientific and Literary Treasury:** A new and popular Encyclopedia of Science and the Belles-Lettres; including all Branches of Science, and every subject connected with Literature and Art. Fcp. 8vo. 10s.
- Maunder's Biographical Treasury:** consisting of Memoirs, Sketches, and brief Notices of above 12,000 Eminent Persons of All Ages and Nations, from the Earliest Period of History: Forming a complete Dictionary of Universal Biography. Fcp. 8vo. 10s.
- Maunder's Treasury of Knowledge, and Library of Reference;** comprising an English Dictionary and Grammar, a Universal Gazetteer, a Classical Dictionary, a Chronology, a Law Dictionary, a Synopsis of the Peerage, numerous useful Tables, &c. Fcp. 8vo. 10s.

Maunder's Treasury of Natural History; or, a Popular Dictionary of Animated Nature: In which the Zoological Characteristics that distinguish the different Classes, Genera, and Species, are combined with a variety of interesting Information illustrative of the Habits, Instincts, and General Economy of the Animal Kingdom. With 900 Woodcuts. Fcp. 10s.

Maunder's Historical Treasury; comprising a General Introductory Outline of Universal History, Ancient and Modern; and a Series of Separate Histories of every principal Nation that exists; their Rise, Progress, and Present Condition, the Moral and Social Character of their respective Inhabitants, their Religion, Manners, and Customs, &c. Fcp. 8vo. 10s.

Maunder's Treasury of Geography, Physical, Historical, Descriptive, and Political; containing a succinct Account of Every Country in the World: Preceded by an Introductory Outline of the History of Geography; a Familiar Inquiry into the Varieties of Race and Language exhibited by different Nations; and a View of the Relations of Geography to Astronomy and the Physical Sciences. Completed by WILLIAM HUGHES, F.R.G.S. With 7 Maps and 16 Steel Plates. Fcp. 8vo. 10s.

Merivale. — A History of the Romans under the Empire. By the Rev. CHARLES MERIVALE, B.D., late Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge. 8vo. with Maps.

Vols. I and II, comprising the History to the Fall of Julius Cæsar. Second Edition, 28s.

Vol. III, to the Establishment of the Monarchy by Augustus. Second Edition, 14s.

Vol. IV, and V, from Augustus to Claudius, n.c. 27 to A.D. 54. 32s.

Vol. VI, from the Reign of Nero, A.D. 54, to the Fall of Jerusalem, A.D. 70. 16s.

Merivale. — The Fall of the Roman Republic: A Short History of Last Century of the Commonwealth. By the Rev. C. MERIVALE, B.D., late Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge. New Edition. 12mo. 7s. 6d.

Merivale (Miss). — Christian Records: A Short History of Apostolic Age. By L. A. MERIVALE. Fcp. 8vo. price 7s. 6d.

Miles. — The Horse's Foot and How to Keep it Sound. Eighth Edition; with an Appendix on Shoeing in general, and Hunters in particular. 12 Plates and 12 Woodcuts. By W. MILES, Esq. Imperial 8vo. 12s. 6d.

Miles's Plain Treatise on Horse-Shoeing. With Plates and Woodcuts. Second Edition. Post 8vo. 2s.

Milner's History of the Church of Christ. With Additions by the late Rev. ISAAC MILNER, D.D., F.R.S. A New Edition, revised, with additional Notes by the Rev. T. GRANHAM, B.D. 4 vols. 8vo. 62s.

James Montgomery's Poetical Works: Collective Edition; with the Author's Autobiographical Prefaces, complete in One Volume; with Portrait and Vignette. Square crown 8vo. 10s. 6d. cloth; morocco, 21s.—Or, in 4 vols. fcp. 8vo. with Plates, 14s.

Moore. — The Power of the Soul over the Body, considered in relation to Health and Morals. By GEORGE MOORE, M.D. Fcp. 8vo. 6s.

Moore. — Man and his Motives. By GEORGE MOORE, M.D. Fcp. 8vo. 6s.

Moore. — The Use of the Body in relation to the Mind. By G. MOORE, M.D. Fcp. 8vo. 6s.

Moore. — Memoirs, Journal, and Correspondence of Thomas Moore. Edited by the Right Hon. LORD JOHN RUSSELL, M.P. With Portraits and Vignettes. 8 vols. post 8vo. 24. 4s.

Thomas Moore's Poetical Works: Comprising the Author's Recent Introductions and Notes. The *Traveler's Edition*, crown 8vo. with Portrait, 12s. 6d. cloth; morocco by Hayday, 21s.—Also the *Library Edition*, with Portrait and Vignette, medium 8vo. 21s. cloth; morocco by Hayday, 42s.—And the *First collected Edition*, in 10 vols. fcp. 8vo. with Portrait and 19 Plates, 35s.

Moore. — Poetry and Pictures from Thomas Moore: Being Selections of the most popular and admired of Moore's Poems, copiously illustrated with highly-finished Wood Engravings from original Designs by eminent Artists. Fcp. 4to. price 21s. cloth; or 42s. bound in morocco by Hayday.

Moore's Songs, Ballads, and Sacred Songs. New Edition, printed in Ruby Type; with the Notes, and a Vignette from a Design by T. Creswick, R.A. 32mo. 2s. 6d.—An Edition in 18mo. with Vignette by R. Doyle, 5s.; or 12s. 6d. morocco by Hayday.

Moore's Sacred Songs, the Symphonies and Accompaniments, arranged for One or more Voices, printed with the Words. Imperial 8vo.

[*Nearly ready.*]

Moore's Lalla Rookh: An Oriental Romance. With 13 highly-finished Steel Plates from Original Designs by Corbould, Meadows, and Stephanoff, engraved under the superintendence of the late Charles Heath. New Edition. Square crown 8vo. 15s. cloth; morocco, 25s.

Moore's Lalla Rookh. New Edition, printed in Ruby Type; with the Preface and Notes from the collective edition of *Moore's Poetical Works*, and a Frontispiece from a Design by Kenny Meadows. 32mo. 2s. 6d.—An Edition in 16mo. with Vignette, 5s.; or 12s. 6d. morocco by Hayday.

Moore's Lalla Rookh. A New Edition, with numerous Illustrations from original Designs by JOHN TENNIEL, engraved on Wood by the Brothers DALZIEL. Fcp. 4to.
[*In preparation.*]

Moore's Irish Melodies. A New Edition, with 13 highly-finished Steel Plates, from Original Designs by eminent Artists. Square crown 8vo. 21s. cloth; or 31s. 6d. bound in morocco.

Moore's Irish Melodies, printed in Ruby Type; with the Preface and Notes from the collective edition of *Moore's Poetical Works*, the Advertisements originally prefixed, and a Portrait of the Author. 32mo. 2s. 6d. An Edition in 16mo. with Vignette, 5s.; or 12s. 6d. morocco by Hayday.

Moore's Irish Melodies. Illustrated by D. MacLise, R.A. New Edition; with 161 Designs, and the whole of the Letterpress engraved on Steel, by F. P. Becker. Super-royal 8vo. 31s. 6d. boards; or £2. 12s. 6d. morocco.

Moore's Irish Melodies, the Music, namely, the Symphonies and Accompaniments by Sir JOHN STEVENSON and Sir HANRY BISHOP, printed with the Words. Imperial 8vo. 31s. 6d. cloth; or 42s. half-bound in morocco.

The Harmonised Airs from Moore's Irish Melodies, as originally arranged for Two, Three, or Four Voices, printed with the Words. Imp. 8vo. 15s. cloth; or 25s. half-bound in morocco.

Moore's National Melodies, with Music, National Airs and other Songs, now first collected. By THOMAS MOORE. The Music, for Voice and Pianoforte, printed with the Words. Imp. 8vo. 31s. 6d. cloth; or 42s. half-bound in morocco.

Moore's Epicurean. New Edition, with the Notes from the Collective Edition of *Moore's Poetical Works*; and a Vignette engraved on Wood from an original Design by D. MACLISE, R.A. 16mo. 5s. cloth; or 12s. 6d. morocco by Hayday.

Morell. — Elements of Psychology: PART I., containing the Analysis of the Intellectual Powers. By J. D. MORELL, M.A., One of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools. Post 8vo. 7s. 6d.

Morning Clouds. Second and cheaper Edition, revised throughout, and printed in a more convenient form. Fcp. 8vo. 5s.

Morton. — The Resources of Estates: A Treatise on the Agricultural Improvement and General Management of Landed Property. By JOHN LOCKHART MORTON, Civil and Agricultural Engineer; Author of Thirteen Highland and Agricultural Prize Essays. With 25 Lithographic Illustrations. Royal 8vo. 31s. 6d.

Moseley's Mechanical Principles of Engineering and Architecture. Second Edition, enlarged; with numerous Woodcuts. 8vo. 24s.

Memoirs and Letters of the late Colonel ARMINN MOUNTAIN, Aide-de-Camp to the Queen, and Adjutant-General of Her Majesty's Forces in India. Edited by Mrs. MOUNTAIN. Second Edition, Portrait. Fcp. 8vo. 6s.

Mure. — A Critical History of the Language and Literature of Ancient Greece. By WILLIAM MURE, of Caldwell. VOLS. I. to III. 8vo. price 30s.; VOL. IV. 15s.; and VOL. V. 18s.

Murray's Encyclopædia of Geography, comprising a complete Description of the Earth: Exhibiting its Relation to the Heavenly Bodies, its Physical Structure, the Natural History of each Country, and the Industry, Commerce, Political Institutions, and Civil and Social State of All Nations. Second Edition; with 52 Maps, and upwards of 1,000 other Woodcuts. 8vo. 60s.

- Murray.**—*French Finance and Financiers under Louis the Fifteenth.* By JAMES MURRAY. 8vo. 10s. 6d.
- Neale.**—*The Closing Scene; or, Christianity and Infidelity contrasted in the Last Hours of Remarkable Persons.* By the Rev. ERSKINE NEALE, M.A. 2 vols. fcp. 8vo. 6s. each.
- Normanby (Marquis of).**—*A Year of Revolution. From a Journal kept in Paris in the Year 1848.* By the MARQUIS OF NORMANBY, K.G. 2 vols. 8vo. 24s.
- Ogilvie.**—*The Master-BUILDER'S Plan; or, the Principles of Organic Architecture as indicated in the Typical Forms of Animals.* By GEORGE OGILVIE, M.D. Post 8vo. with 72 Woodcuts, price 6s. 6d.
- Oldacre.**—*The Last of the Old Squires. A Sketch.* By CEDRIC OLDACRE, Esq., of Sax-Normanbury. Crown 8vo. 9s. 6d.
- Osborn.**—*Quedah; or, Stray Leaves from a Journal in Malayan Waters.* By Captain SHEERARD OSBORN, R.N., C.B. With a coloured Chart and tinted Illustrations. Post 8vo. 10s. 6d.
- Osborn.**—*The Discovery of the North-West Passage by H.M.S. Investigator, Captain R. M'CLURE, 1850-1854.* Edited by Captain SHEERARD OSBORN, C.B. Second Edition, revised; with Portrait, Chart, and Illustrations. 8vo. price 15s.
- Professor Owen's Lectures on the Comparative Anatomy and Physiology of the Invertebrate Animals, delivered at the Royal College of Surgeons. Second Edition, with 235 Woodcuts. 8vo. 21s.**
- Professor Owen's Lectures on the Comparative Anatomy and Physiology of the Vertebrate Animals, delivered at the Royal College of Surgeons in 1844 and 1846. VOL. I. 8vo. 14s.**
- Memoirs of Admiral Parry, the Arctic Navigator.** By his Son, the Rev. E. PARRY, M.A., Domestic Chaplain to the Bishop of London. Fourth Edition; with a Portrait and coloured Chart of the North-West Passage. Fcp. 8vo. 5s.
- Pattison.**—*The Earth and the Word; or, Geology for Bible Students.* By S. R. PATTISON, F.G.S. Fcp. 8vo. with coloured Map, 8s. 6d.
- Dr. Pereira's Elements of Materia Medica and Therapeutics.** 7th-7 Edition, enlarged and improved from the Author's Materials by A. S. TAYLOR, M.D., and G. O. REEA, M.D. Vol. I. 8vo. 23s.; Vol. II. Part I. 21s.; Vol. II. Part II. 20s.
- Dr. Pereira's Lectures on Polarised Light, together with a Lecture on the Microscope.** 2d Edition, enlarged from the Author's Materials by Rev. B. POWELL, M.A. Fcp. 8vo. Woodcuts, price 7s.
- Perry.**—*The Franks, from their First Appearance in History to the Death of King Pepin.* By WALTER C. PERRY, Barrister-at-Law. 8vo. 12s. 6d.
- Peschel's Elements of Physics.** Translated from the German, with Notes, by E. WISE. With Diagrams and Woodcuts. 3 vols. fcp. 8vo. 51s.
- Phillips's Elementary Introduction to Mineralogy. A New Edition, with extensive Alterations and Additions,** by H. J. BROOKS, F.R.S., F.G.S.; and W. H. MILLER, M.A., F.G.S. With numerous Woodcuts. Post 8vo. 18s.
- Phillips.**—*A Guide to Geology.* By JOHN PHILLIPS, M.A., F.R.S., F.G.S., &c. Fourth Edition, corrected; with 4 Plates. Fcp. 8vo. 5s.
- Phillips.**—*Figures and Descriptions of the Paleozoic Fossils of Cornwall, Devon, and West Somerset: observed in the course of the Ordnance Geological Survey of that District.* By JOHN PHILLIPS, F.R.S., F.G.S., &c. 8vo. with 60 Plates, 9s.
- Pieesse's Art of Perfumery, and Methods of Obtaining the Odours of Plants; with Instructions for the Manufacture of Perfumes for the Handkerchief, Scented Powders, Odorous Vinegars, Dentifrices, Pomatams, Cosmetics, Perfumed Soap, &c.; and an Appendix on the Colours of Flowers, Artificial Fruit Essences, &c. Second Edition; Woodcuts. Crown 8vo. 8s. 6d.**
- Captain Portlock's Report on the Geology of the County of Londonderry, and of Parts of Tyrone and Fermanagh, examined and described under the Authority of the Master-General and Board of Ordnance.** 8vo. with 48 Plates, 24s.

Powell.—*Essays on the Spirit of the Inductive Philosophy, the Unity of Worlds, and the Philosophy of Creation.* By the Rev. BADEN POWELL, M.A., &c. Crown 8vo. Woodcuts, 12s. 6d.

Powell.—*Christianity without Judaism: A Second Series of Essays on the Unity of Worlds and of Nature.* By the Rev. BADEN POWELL, M.A., &c. Crown 8vo. 7s. 6d.

Pycroft.—*The Collegian's Guide; or, Recollections of College Days: Setting forth the Advantages and Temptations of a University Education.* By the Rev. J. PYCROFT, B.A. *Second Edition.* Fcp. 8vo. 6s.

Pycroft's Course of English Reading; or, How and What to Read: Adapted to every taste and capacity. With Literary Anecdotes. Fcp. 8vo. 5s.

Pycroft's Cricket-Field; or, the Science and History of the Game of Cricket. *Second Edition; Plates and Woodcuts.* Fcp. 8vo. 5s.

Quatrefages (A. De).—*Rambles of a Naturalist on the Coasts of France, Spain, and Sicily.* By A. DE QUATREFAGES, Memb. Inst. Translated by E. C. ORRIS. 2 vols. post 8vo. 15s.

Baikes (C.)—*Notes on the Revolt in the North-Western Provinces of India.* By CHARLES BAIKES, Judge of the Sadler Court, and late Civil Commissioner with Sir Colin Campbell. 8vo. 7s. 6d.

Baikes (T.)—*Portion of the Journal kept by THOMAS BAIKES, Esq., from 1831 to 1847: Comprising Reminiscences of Social and Political Life in London and Paris during that period.* 2 vols. crown 8vo. price 12s.

Barey.—*A Complete Treatise on the Science of Handling, Educating, and Taming all Horses; with a full and detailed Narrative of his Experience and Practice.* By JOHN S. BAREY, of Ohio, U. S. In 1 vol. with numerous Illustrations. [*Just ready.*]

Dr. Reece's Medical Guide: Comprising a complete Modern Dispensatory, and a Practical Treatise on the distinguishing Symptoms, Causes, Prevention, Cure, and Palliation of the Diseases incident to the Human Frame. Seventeenth Edition, corrected and enlarged by Dr. H. REECE. 8vo. 12s.

Reade.—*The Poetical Works of John Edmund Reade.* New Edition, revised and corrected; with Additional Poems. 4 vols. fcp. 8vo. 20s.

Rees.—*Personal Narrative of the Siege of Lucknow, from its commencement to its Relief by Sir Colin Campbell.* By L. E. REES, one of the surviving Defenders. Third Edition. Post 8vo. price 9s. 6d.

Rich's Illustrated Companion to the Latin Dictionary and Greek Lexicon; Forming a Glossary of all the Words representing Visible Objects connected with the Arts, Manufactures, and Every-Day Life of the Ancients. With about 2,000 Woodcuts from the Antique. Post 8vo. 21s.

Richardson.—*Fourteen Years' Experience of Cold Water: Its Uses and Abuses.* By Captain M. RICHARDSON. Post 8vo. Woodcuts, 6s.

Horsemanship; or, the Art of Riding and Managing a Horse, adapted to the Guidance of Ladies and Gentlemen on the Road and in the Field; With Instructions for Breaking-in Colts and Young Horses. By Captain RICHARDSON, late of the 4th Light Dragoons. With 5 Plates. Square crown 8vo. 14s.

Household Prayers for Four Weeks: With additional Prayers for Special Occasions. To which is added a Course of Scripture Reading for Every Day in the Year. By the Rev. J. E. RIDDLE, M.A. Crown 8vo. 3s. 6d.

Riddle's Complete Latin-English and English-Latin Dictionary, for the use of Colleges and Schools. *New Edition, revised and corrected.* 8vo. 21s.

Riddle's Diamond Latin-English Dictionary. A Guide to the Meaning, Quality, and right Accentuation of Latin Classical Words. Royal 8mo. 4s.

Riddle's Copious and Critical Latin-English Lexicon, founded on the German-Latin Dictionaries of Dr. Wilham Freund. Post 4to. 21s. 6d.

Rivers's Rose-Amateur's Guide; containing ample Descriptions of all the fine leading variety of Roses, regularly classed in their respective Families; their History and Mode of Culture. Sixth Edition. Fcp. 8vo. 3s. 6d.

Dr. E. Robinson's Greek and English Lexicon to the Greek Testament. A New Edition, revised and in great part re-written. 8vo. 18s.

Mr. Henry Rogers's Essays selected from Contributions to the *Edinburgh Review*. Second Edition, with Additional. 3 vols. fcp. 8vo. 21s.

Dr. Roget's Thesaurus of English Words and Phrases classified and arranged so as to facilitate the Expression of Ideas and assist in Literary Composition. Fifth Edition, revised and improved. Crown 8vo. 10s. 6d.

Ronalds's Fly-Fisher's Entomology: With coloured Representation of the Natural and Artificial Insects, and a few Observations and Instructions on Trout and Grayling Fishing. *Fifth Edition*; with 20 new-coloured Plates. 8vo. 14s.

Rowton's Debater: A Series of complete Debates, Outlines of Debates, and Questions for Discussion; with ample References to the best Sources of Information. Fcp. 8vo. 6s.

Dr. C. W. Russell's Life of Cardinal Mezzofanti: With an Introductory Memor of eminent Linguists, Ancient and Modern. With Portrait and Facsimiles. 8vo. 12s.

The Saints our Example. By the Author of *Letters to my Unknown Friends*, &c. Fcp. 8vo. 7s.

Scherzer.—Travels in the Free States of Central America: Nicaragua, Honduras, and San Salvador. By Dr. CARL SCHERZER. 2 vols. post 8vo. 16s.

SchimmelPenninck (Mrs.) — Life of Mary Anne SchimmelPenninck, Author of *Select Memoirs of Port Royal*, and other Works. Edited by her relation, CHRISTIANA C. HANKIN. 2 vols. post 8vo. with Portrait, 15s.

Dr. L. Schmitt's History of Greece, from the Earliest Times to the Taking of Corinth by the Romans, B.C. 146, mainly based upon Bishop Thirlwall's History. *Fifth Edition*, with Nine new Supplementary Chapters on the Civilisation, Religion, Literature, and Arts of the Ancient Greeks, contributed by C. H. WARREN, M.A. Trin. Coll. Camb.; also a Map of Athens and 137 Woodcuts designed by G. Scharf, jun., F.S.A. 12mo. 7s. 6d.

Scoffern (Dr.)—Projectile Weapons of War and Explosive Compounds. By J. SCOFFERN, M.B. Lond., late Professor of Chemistry in the Aldersgate College of Medicine. *Third Edition*. Post 8vo. Woodcuts, 8s. 6d.

Scrivener's History of the Iron Trade, from the Earliest Records to the Present Period. 8vo. 10s. 6d.

Sir Edward Seaward's Narrative of his Shipwreck, and consequent Discovery of certain Islands in the Caribbean Sea. 2 vols. post 8vo. 21s.

The Sermon in the Mount. Printed by C. Whittingham, uniformly with the *Tasmo Bible*. 64mo. 1s. 6d.

Sewell (Miss).—New Edition of the Tales and Stories of the Author of *Amy Herbert*, in 2 vols. crown 8vo. price 21. 10s. cloth; or each work complete in one volume, separately as follows —

AMY HERBERT..... 2s. 6d.
 GERTRUDE..... 2s. 6d.
 The EARL'S DAUGHTER... 2s. 6d.
 The EXPERIENCE of LIFE... 2s. 6d.
 CLEVE HALL..... 3s. 6d.
 IVORS, or the Two Cousins 3s. 6d.
 KATHARINE ASHTON..... 3s. 6d.
 MARGARET PERCIVAL... 5s. 6d.
 LANETON PARSONAGE... 4s. 6d.

By the same Author, New Editions,

Ursula: A Tale of English Country Life. 2 vols. fcp. 8vo. 12s.

Readings for every Day in Lent: Compiled from the Writings of Bishop JEREMY TAYLOR. Fcp. 8vo. 6s.

Readings for a Month preparatory to Confirmation: Compiled from the Works of Writers of the Early and of the English Church. Fcp. 8vo. 4s.

Bowdler's Family Shakspeare:

In which nothing is added to the Original Text; but those words and expressions are omitted which cannot with propriety be read aloud. Illustrated with 35 Woodcut Vignettes. *The Library Edition*, in One Volume, medium 8vo. price 21s.; a *Pocket Edition*, in 6 vols. fcp. 8vo. price 5s. each.

Sharp's New British Gazetteer, or Topographical Dictionary of the British Islands and narrow Seas: Comprising concise Descriptions of about 80,000 Places, Seats, Natural Features, and Objects of Note, founded on the best authorities. 2 vols. 8vo. £2. 16s.

Short Whist; its Rise, Progress, and Laws: With Observations to make any one a Whist-Player. Containing also the Laws of Piquet, Cassino, Ecarté, Cribbage, Backgammon. By Major A. New Edition; with Precepts for Tyros, by Mrs. B. Fcp. 8vo. 3s.

Sinclair. — The Journey of Life. By CATHERINE SINCLAIR, Author of *The Business of Life*. Fcp. 8vo. 5s.

Sir Roger De Coverley. From the Spectator. With Notes and Illustrations, by W. HENRY WILLS; and 12 Wood Engravings from Designs by F. TAYLER. Crown 8vo. 10s. 6d.; or 21s. in Morocco by Hayday.

The Sketches: Three Tales. By the Authors of *Amey Herbert*, *The Old Man's Home*, and *Hawkstone*. Fcp. 8vo. price 4s. 6d.

Smee's Elements of Electro-Metallurgy. Third Edition, revised; with Electrotypes and numerous Woodcuts. Post 8vo. 10s. 6d.

Smith (G.) — History of Wesleyan Methodism. By GEORGE SMITH, F.A.S., Author of *Sacred Annals*, &c. VOL. I. *Wesley and his Times*; VOL. II. *The Middle Age of Methodism*, from 1791 to 1816. Crown 8vo. 10s. 6d. each.

Smith (G. V.) — The Prophecies relating to Nineveh and the Assyrians. Translated from the Hebrew, with Historical Introductions and Notes, exhibiting the principal Results of the recent Discoveries. By GEORGE VANCE SMITH, B. A. Post 8vo. 10s. 6d.

Smith (J.) — The Voyage and Shipwreck of St. Paul: With Dissertations on the Life and Writings of St. Luke, and the Ships and Navigation of the Ancients. By JAMES SMITH, F.R.S. With Charts, Views, and Woodcuts. Crown 8vo. 8s. 6d.

A Memoir of the Rev. Sydney Smith. By his Daughter, LADY HOLLAND. With a Selection from his Letters, edited by Mrs. AUSTIN. *New Edition*. 2 vols. 8vo. 25s.

The Rev. Sydney Smith's Miscellaneous Works: Including his Contributions to The Edinburgh Review. Three Editions:—

1. A LIBRARY EDITION (the *Fourth*), in 3 vols. 8vo. with Portrait, 36s.
2. Complete in ONE VOLUME, with Portrait and Vignette. Square crown, 8vo. 21s. cloth; or 30s. bound in calf.
3. Another *New Edition*, in 3 vols. fcp. 8vo. 21s.

The Rev. Sydney Smith's Elementary Sketches of Moral Philosophy, delivered at the Royal Institution in the Years 1804 to 1806. Fcp. 8vo. 7s.

Snow. — Two Years' Cruise off Tierra del Fuego, the Falkland Islands, Patagonia, and in the River Plate: A Narrative of Life in the Southern Seas. By W. PARKER SNOW, late Commander of the Mission Yacht *Allen Gardiner*. With Charts and Illustrations. 2 vols. post 8vo. 24s.

Robert Southey's Complete Poetical Works; containing all the Author's last Introductions and Notes. The *Library Edition*, complete in One Volume, with Portraits and Vignette. Medium 8vo. 21s. cloth; 48s. bound in Morocco. — Also, the *First collected Edition*, in 10 vols. fcp. 8vo. with Portrait and 19 Vignettes, price 35s.

The Life and Correspondence of the late Robert Southey. Edited by his Son, the Rev. C. C. SOUTHEY, M.A. With Portraits, &c. 6 vols. post 8vo. price 63s.

Southey's Doctor, complete in One Volume. Edited by the Rev. J. W. WARTER, B.D. With Portrait, Vignette, Bust, and coloured Plate. Square crown 8vo. 21s.

Southey's Life of Wesley; and Rise and Progress of Methodism. Fourth Edition, edited by Rev. C. C. SOUTHEY, M.A. 2 vols. crown 8vo. 12s.

Spencer. — Essays, Scientific, Political, and Speculative. By HERBERT SPENCER, Author of *Social Statics*. Reprinted chiefly from Quarterly Reviews. 8vo. 12s. cloth.

Spencer. — The Principles of Psychology. By HERBERT SPENCER, Author of *Social Statics*. 8vo. 16s.

- Stephen. — Lectures on the History of France.** By the Right Hon. Sir JAMES STEPHEN, K.C.B., LL.D. Third Edition. 2 vols. 8vo. 24s.
- Stephen. — Essays in Ecclesiastical Biography; from The Edinburgh Review.** By the Right Hon. Sir JAMES STEPHEN, K.C.B., LL.D. Third Edition. 2 vols. 8vo. 34s.
- Stonehenge. — The Dog in Health and Disease: Comprising the various Modes of Breaking and using him for Hunting, Coursing, Shooting, &c.; and including the Points or Characteristics of Toy Dogs.** By STONEHENGE. 8vo. with numerous Illustrations.
[In the press.]
- Stonehenge. — The Greyhound: Being a Treatise on the Art of Breeding, Rearing, and Training Greyhounds for Public Running; their Diseases and Treatment: Containing also Rules for the Management of Coursing Meetings, and for the Decision of Courses.** By STONEHENGE. With Frontispiece and Woodcuts. Square crown 8vo. 21s.
- Stow's Training System, Moral Training School, and Normal Seminary for preparing Schoolmasters and Governesses.** Tenth Edition; Plates and Woodcuts. Post 8vo. 6s
- Strickland. — Lives of the Queens of England.** By AGNES STRICKLAND. Dedicated, by express permission, to Her Majesty. Embellished with Portraits of every Queen, engraved from the most authentic sources. Complete in 8 vols. post 8vo. 7s. 6d. each.
- Memoirs of the Life and Services of Rear-Admiral Sir William Symonds, late Surveyor of the Navy.** Edited by J. A. SHARP. 8vo. with Illustrations, price 21s.
- Taylor. — Loyola: and Jesuitism in its Rudiments.** By ISAAC TAYLOR. Post 8vo. Medallion, 10s. 6d.
- Taylor. — Wesley and Methodism.** By ISAAC TAYLOR. Post 8vo. Portrait, 10s. 6d.
- Thacker's Courser's Annual Remembrancer and Stud-Book: Being an Alphabetical Return of the Running at all Public Coursing Clubs in England, Ireland, and Scotland, for the Season 1857-8; with the Pedigrees (as far as received) of the Does.** By ROBERT ABRAHAM WILSH, Liverpool. 8vo. 21s.
. Published annually in October.
- Bishop Thriwall's History of Greece.** Library Edition; with Maps. 8 vols. 8vo. 23s. — An Edition in 8 vols. fcp. 8vo. with Vignette Titles, 25s.
- Thomson's Seasons.** Edited by BOLTON CORNEY, Esq. Illustrated with 77 fine Wood Engravings from Designs by Members of the Etching Club. Square crown 8vo. 21s. cloth; or 36s. bound in morocco.
- Thomson (the Rev. Dr.) — An Outline of the necessary Laws of Thought: A Treatise on Pure and Applied Logic.** By WILLIAM THOMSON, D.D. New Edition. Fcp. 8vo. 7s. 6d.
- Thomson's Tables of Interest,** at Three, Four, Four-and-a-Half, and Five per Cent., from One Pound to Ten Thousand, and from 1 to 365 Days, in a regular progression of single Days; with Interest at all the above Rates, from One to Twelve Months, and from One to Ten Years. Also, numerous other Tables of Exchange, Time, and Discounts. New Edition. 18mo. 8s.
- The Thumb Bible; or, Verbum Sempiternum.** By J. TAYLOR. Being an Epitome of the Old and New Testaments in English Verse. Reprinted from the Edition of 1693. 61mo. 1s. 6d.
- Tighe and Davis. — Annals of Windsor; Being a History of the Castle and Town: With some account of Eton and Places adjacent.** By R. R. TIGHE, Esq.; and J. E. DAVIS, Esq., Barrister-at-Law. With numerous Illustrations. 2 vols. royal 8vo. 24. 4s.
- Tooke. — History of Prices, and of the State of the Circulation, during the Nine Years from 1843 to 1856 inclusive.** Forming Vols. V. and VI. of Tooke's *History of Prices*; and comprising a copious index to the whole work. By THOMAS TOOKE, F.R.S. and WILLIAM NEWMARSH. 2 vols. 8vo. 62s. 6d.
- Townsend. — Modern State Trials revised and illustrated with Essays and Notes.** By W. C. TOWNSEND, Esq., M.A., Q.C. 2 vols. 8vo. 30s.
- Trollope. — Barchester Towers: a Novel.** By ANTHONY TROLLOPE. New and cheaper Edition, complete in One Volume. Crown 8vo. 6s.
- Trollope. — The Warden.** By ANTHONY TROLLOPE. Post 8vo. 10s. 6d.

The Traveller's Library: A Col-

lection of original Works well adapted for *Travellers and Emigrants*, for *School-room Libraries*, the *Libraries of Mechanics' Institutions*, *Young Men's Libraries*, the *Libraries of Ships*, and similar purposes. The separate volumes are suited for *School Prizes*, *Presents to Young People*, and for general instruction and entertainment. The Series comprises fourteen of the most popular of Lord Macaulay's *Essays*, and his *Speeches* on Parliamentary Reform. The department of *Travels* contains some account of eight of the principal countries of Europe, as well as travels in four districts of Africa, in four of America, and in three of Asia. Madame Pfeiffer's *First Journey round the World* is included; and a general account of the *Australian Colonies*. In *Biography and History* will be found Lord Macaulay's *Biographical Sketches of Warren Hastings, Clive, Pitt, Walpole, Bacon*, and others; besides *Memoirs of Wellington, Turme, F. Arago*, &c.; an *Essay on the Life and Genius of Thomas Fuller*, with Selections from his Writings, by Mr. Henry Rogers; and a history of the *Leipsic Campaign*, by Mr. Gleig, — which is the only separate account of this remarkable campaign. Works of Fiction did not come within the plan of the TRAVELLER'S LIBRARY; but the *Confessions of a Working Man*, by Souvestre, which is indeed a fiction founded on fact, has been included, and has been read with unusual interest by many of the working classes, for whose use it is especially recommended. Dumas's story of the *Maitre d'Armes*, though in form a work of fiction, gives a striking picture of an episode in the history of Russia. Amongst the works on Science and Natural Philosophy, a general view of Creation is embodied in Dr. Kemp's *Natural History of Creation*; and in his *Indications of Instinct* remarkable facts in natural history are collected. Dr. Wilson has contributed a popular account of the *Electric Telegraph*. In the volumes on the *Coal-Fields*, and on the *Tin* and other *Mining Districts of Cornwall*, is given an account of the mineral wealth of England, the habits and manners of the miners, and the scenery of the surrounding country. It only remains to add, that among the Miscellaneous Works are a Selection of the best Writings of the Rev. Sydney Smith; Lord Carlisle's *Lectures and Addresses*; an account of *Mormonism*, by the Rev. W. J. Conybeare; an exposition of *Railway management and mismanagement* by Mr. Herbert Spencer; an account of the *Origin and Practice of Printing*, by Mr. Stark; and an account of *London*, by Mr. McCulloch. — To be had, in *complete Sets only*, at £3. 5s. per Set, bound in cloth and lettered.

55 The Traveller's Library may also be had as originally issued in 102 parts, 1s. each, forming 50 vols. 2s. 6d. each; or any separate parts or volumes.

Sharon Turner's Sacred History of the World, Philosophically considered, in a Series of Letters to a Son. 3 vols. post 8vo. 31s. 6d..

Sharon Turner's History of England during the Middle Ages; Comprising the Reigns from the Norman Conquest to the Accession of Henry VIII. 4 vols. 8vo. 50s.

Sharon Turner's History of the Anglo-Saxons, from the Earliest Period to the Norman Conquest. 3 vols. 8s.

Dr. Turton's Manual of the Land and Fresh-Water Shells of Great Britain: With Figures of each of the kinds. New Edition, with Additions by Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S., &c., Keeper of the Zoological Collection in the British Museum. Crown 8vo. with 12 coloured Plates, price 15s. cloth.

Dr. Ure's Dictionary of Arts, Manufactures, and Mines: Containing a clear Exposition of their Principles and Practice. Fourth Edition, much enlarged. With nearly 1,000 Woodcuts. 2 vols. 8vo. 60s.

Uwins. — Memoir of Thomas Uwins, R.A. By Mrs. UWINS. With Letters to his Brothers during Seven Years spent in Italy; and Correspondence with the late Sir Thomas Lawrence, Sir C. L. Eastlake, A. E. Chalon, R.A., and other distinguished persons. 2 vols. post 8vo.

Van der Hoeven's Handbook of Zoology. Translated from the Second Dutch Edition by the Rev. WILLIAM CLARE, M.D., F.R.S., Professor of Anatomy in the University of Cambridge; with additional References by the Author. 2 vols. 8vo. with 24 Plates of Figures, price 60s. cloth; or separately, VOL. I. *Invertebrata*, 30s., and VOL. II. *Vertebrata*, 30s.

Vehse. — Memoirs of the Court, Aristocracy, and Diplomacy of Austria. By Dr. E. VEHSE. Translated from the German by FRANK DEMMLER. 2 vols. post 8vo. 21s.

Von Tempsky. — Mitla; or, Incidents and Personal Adventures on a Journey in Mexico, Guatemala, and Salvador in the Years 1853 to 1855: With Observations on the Modes of Life in those Countries. By G. F. VON TEMPSKY. With numerous Illustrations. 8vo. 15s.

Wade. — England's Greatness : Its Rise and Progress in Government, Laws, Religion, and Social Life; Agriculture, Commerce, and Manufactures; Science, Literature and Arts, from the Earliest Period to the Peace of Paris. By JOHN WADE, Author of the *Cabinet Lawyer*, &c. Post 8vo. 10s. 6d.

Wanderings in the Land of Ham. By a DAUGHTER of JAFFREY. Post 8vo. 8s. 6d.

Waterton. — Essays on Natural History, chiefly Ornithology. By C. WATERTON, Esq. With an Autobiography of the Author, and Views of Walton Hall. 2 vols. 8vo. 5s. each.

Waterton's Essays on Natural History. THIRD SERIES; with a Continuation of the Autobiography, and a Portrait of the Author. Fcp. 8vo. 6s.

Webster and Parkes's Encyclopaedia of Domestic Economy; comprising such subjects as are most immediately connected with House-keeping: viz. The Construction of Domestic Edifices, with the Modes of Warming, Ventilating, and Lighting them—A description of the various Articles of Furniture, with the Nature of their Materials—Duties of Servants—&c. With nearly 1,000 Woodcuts. 8vo. 50s.

Weld. — Vacations in Ireland. By CHARLES RICHARD WELD, Barrister-at-Law. Post 8vo. 10s. 6d.

Weld. — A Vacation Tour in the United States and Canada. By C. R. WELD, Barrister. Post 8vo. 10s. 6d.

West. — Lectures on the Diseases of Infancy and Childhood. By CHARLES WEST, M.D., Physician to the Hospital for Sick Children; Physician-Accoucheur to, and Lecturer on Midwifery at, St. Bartholomew's Hospital. 8vo. 14s.

Williott's Popular Tables for ascertaining the Value of Lifehold, Leasehold, and Church Property, Renewal Fines, &c. With numerous additional Tables—Chemical, Astronomical, Trigonometrical, Common and Hyperbolic Logarithms; Constants, Squares, Cubes, Roots, Reciprocals, &c. Fourth Edition. Post 8vo. 10s.

Wilmot's Abridgment of Blackstone's Commentaries on the Laws of England, in a series of Letters from a Father to his Daughter. 12mo. 6s. 6d.

Wilson's Bryologia Britannica : Containing the Mosses of Great Britain and Ireland systematically arranged and described according to the Method of *Bruch and Schimper*; with 61 illustrative Plates. Being a New Edition, enlarged and altered, of the *Muscologia Britannica* of Messrs. Hooker and Taylor. 8vo. 42s.; or, with the Plates coloured, price 24. 4s.

Yonge. — A New English-Greek Lexicon: Containing all the Greek Words used by Writers of good authority. By C. D. YONGE, B.A. Second Edition, revised. Post 4to. 21s.

Yonge's New Latin Gradus : Containing Every Word used by the Poets of good authority. For the use of Eton, Westminster, Winchester, Harrow, and Rugby Schools; King's College, London; and Marlborough College. FIFTH EDITION. Post 8vo. 2s.; or, with APPENDIX of Epitaphs, 12s.

Yonge's School Edition of Horace. — Horace, with concise English Notes for Schools and Students. By the Rev. J. E. YONGE, King's College, Cambridge; Assistant Master at Eton. PART I. Odes and Epodes, 12mo. 2s.; PART II. Satires and Epistles, 2s. 6d.

Youatt. — The Horse. By William Youatt. With a Treatise of Draught. New Edition, with numerous Wood Engravings, from Designs by William Harvey. (Messrs. LONGMAN and Co.'s Edition should be ordered.) 8vo. 10s.

Youatt. — The Dog. By William Youatt. A New Edition; with numerous Engravings, from Designs by W. Harvey. 8vo. 6s.

Young. — The Christ of History : An Argument grounded in the Facts of His Life on Earth. By JOHN YOUNG, LL.D. Second Edition. Post 8vo. 7s. 6d.

Young. — The Mystery ; or, Evil and God. By JOHN YOUNG, LL.D. Post 8vo. 7s. 6d.

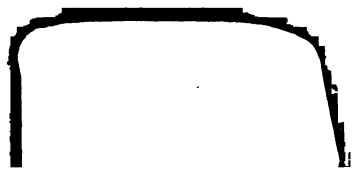
Zumpt's Grammar of the Latin Language. Translated and adapted for the use of English Students by Dr. L. SCHMITZ, F.R.S.E.; With numerous Additions and Corrections by the Author and Translator. 8vo. 14s.

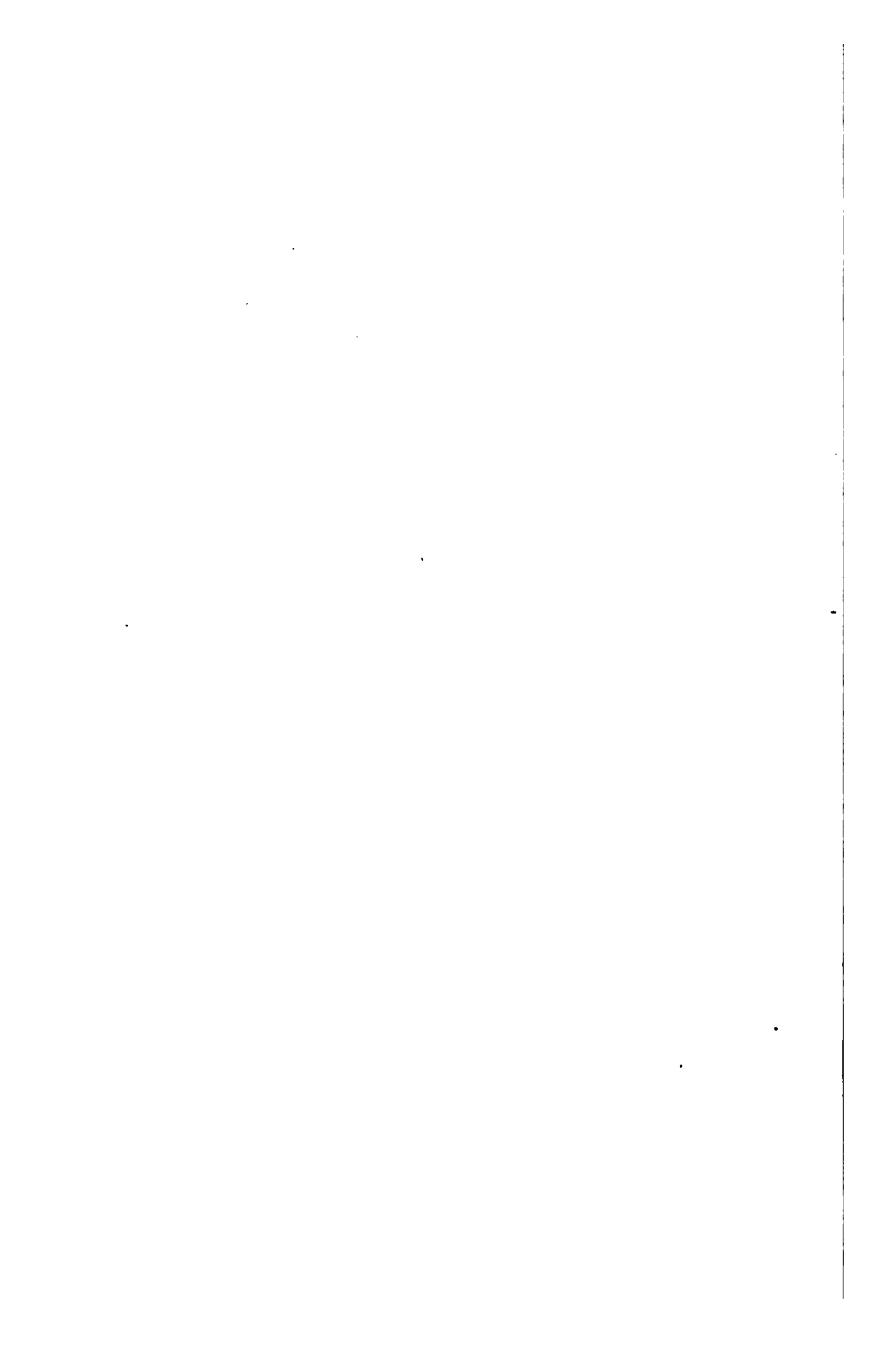
[October 1858.]

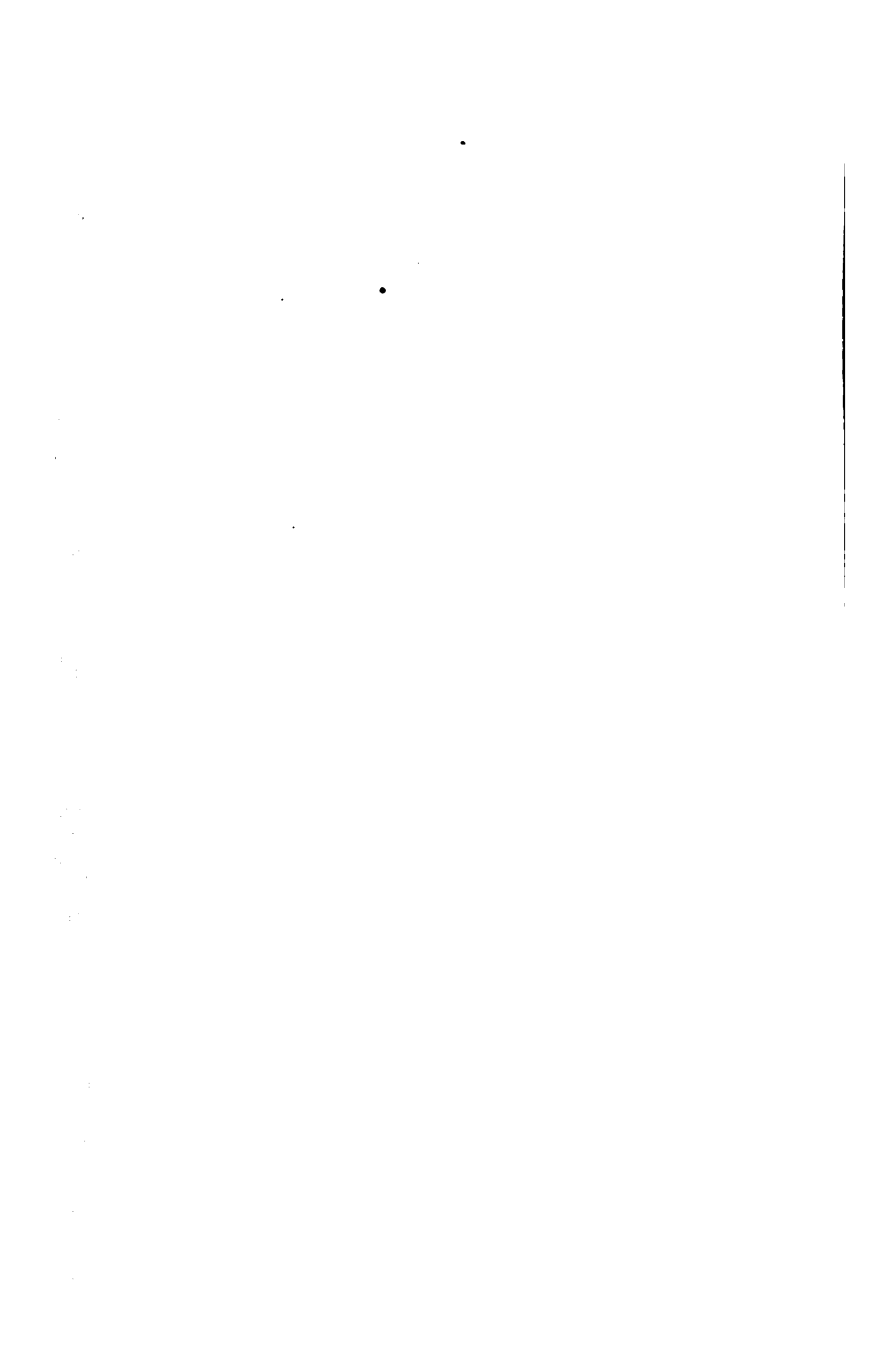


•
•

.

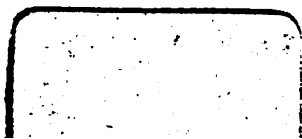


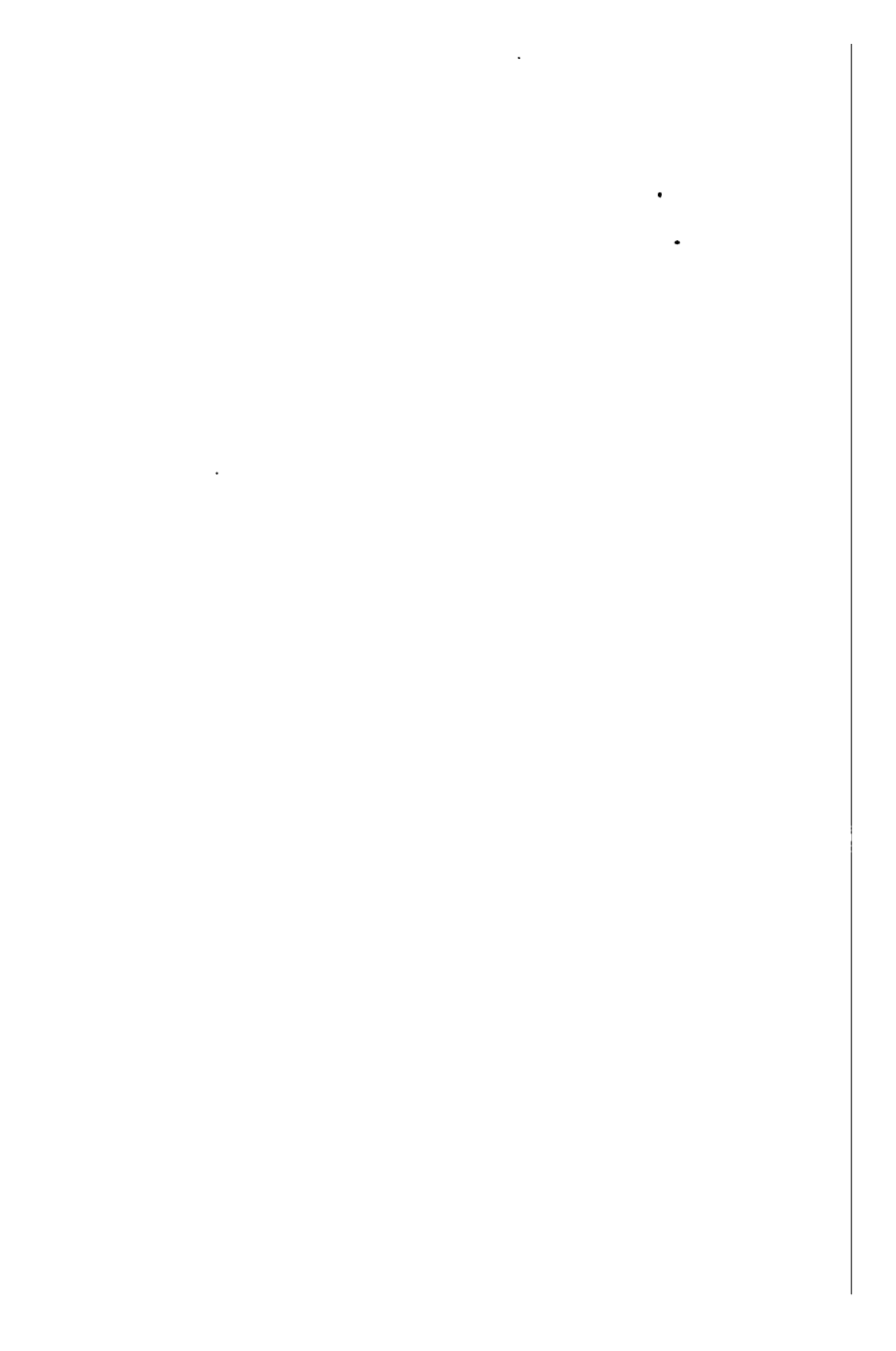




•
•

AUG 13 1930





AUG 13 1930

